

"Comet of the Century" will fly  
by the sun on Thanksgiving morning

SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY B7



Hopkins students  
should care more  
about personal health

EDITORIALS A10

# the johns hopkins News-Letter

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## Drone film director decries U.S. strikes

By MARY KATE TURNER  
Staff Writer

"What does it mean to  
be haunted by loss?"

That was the chilling question that follows a brief clip of President Obama speaking on counterterrorism policy in the opening scene of Madiha Tahir's documentary *Wounds of Waziristan*; her voice-over plays as photographs of dead and wounded Pakistani civilians flash across

the screen.

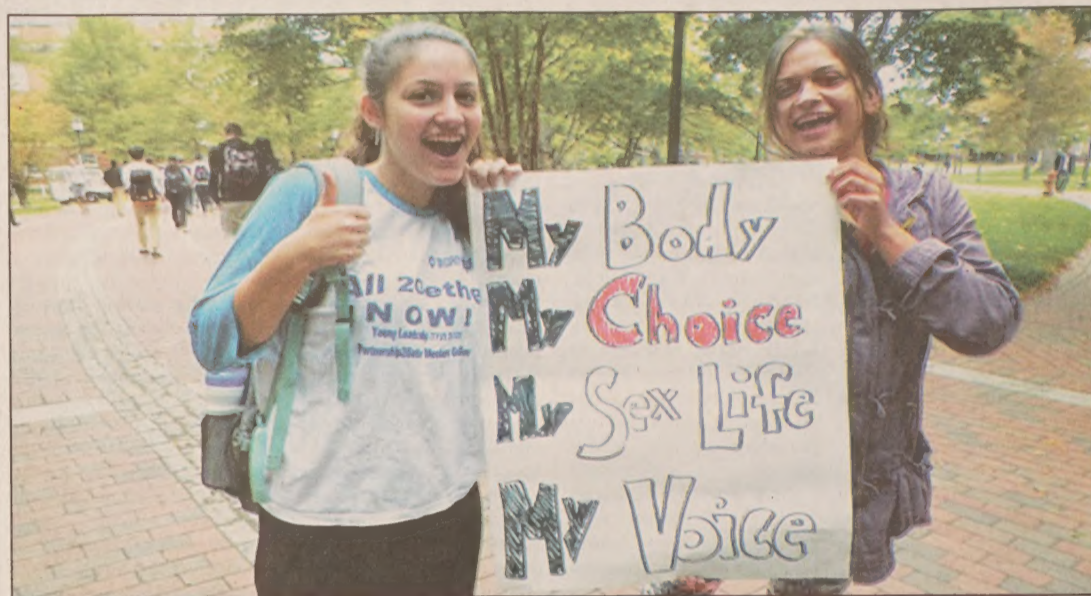
Tahir is a writer, journalist, and filmmaker who specializes in Pakistani conflict and culture. Her first short film, which premiered in late October, details the drone attacks in the small Pakistani state of Waziristan launched by the United States since 2004.

"I wanted to create a film that could linger over the experiences of the survivors," Tahir said in a panel discussion following the screening of the film last Thursday in Gilman Hall sponsored by the Human Rights Working Group, which opposes drone research at Hopkins.

The documentary featured the stories of several survivors of American drone attacks, all of whom had lost loved ones.

"We are very plugged into American media context, and one doesn't see in the American media what happens after the bombs," Tahir said.

SEE WAZIRISTAN, PAGE A5



COURTESY OF VINITHA KUMAR

Freshmen Julia DeVarti (left) and Vinitha Kumar (right) protested Voice for Life's Respect for Life Week earlier this year on the North side of the library.

## Voice for Choice secures SGA Senate approval

By ELLEN BRAIT  
Editor-in-Chief

Voice for Choice (VFC), a non-harassment, bipartisan pro-choice group, was officially approved as a student group by the Student Government Association (SGA) last week. The foundation for the group formed last

year in response to the pro-life group Voice for Life (VFL).

This year, VFC is expanding its presence under the leadership of two of its founding members, freshmen Vinitha Kumar and Tess Fields. The group works to promote women's rights to make their own

sexual and reproductive choices. VFC's core values include promoting consensual sex and equality regardless of gender as well as increasing activism on campus and establishing Hopkins as a safe haven for all students.

"Our original goals are to promote sexual auton-

omy and healthy sexuality, reproductive autonomy and an end to gender and identity discrimination for all students," Kumar wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

The group also hopes to educate the Hopkins student body on issues

SEE CHOICE, PAGE A6

## Author Colum McCann reads excerpts from recent novels

By ALEX FINE  
Staff Writer

"Mystics live outside of  
time. Novelists live in it."

These words spoken by Professor David YeZZi Wednesday night, served to introduce Colum McCann as the second keynote speaker of the President's Reading Series.

McCann, a citizen of both Ireland and the U.S., shared selections from his novels *Let the Great World Spin* and *Transatlantic*. Although many of the passages he selected were heavy with themes of death, war and starvation, McCann managed to weave light-heartedness into his talk by providing humorous commentary intermittently throughout the readings.

"I'm probably the least

SEE MCCANN, PAGE A6

## See the Future event focuses on past

By JENNA MCLAUGHLIN  
Staff Writer

The Sustainable Hopkins Infrastructure Program (SHIP) and the University's Sustainability Network hosted what was billed as the 2nd Annual Future of Hopkins Symposium on Tuesday evening in Maryland Hall, despite the fact that not much was actually said about the future at the event.

Subtitled "See the Future," the symposium loosely followed the thread of the increase in sustainable development on the

Homewood campus and beyond in recent years.

Anne M. Roderer, an associate University architect, gave a presentation focused on the evolution of the Homewood campus. She talked much about the history of planning at Hopkins but was vague on future construction plans.

SHIP, a combined group of students and faculty members, works to promote awareness of sustainable development at Hopkins.

According to Roderer, it was not until the early 1900s that the Homewood

Campus began to form adjacent to Charles Village. Roderer put a clear emphasis on planning and the ways in which a clear master plan is vital in all development, especially sustainable development.

Roderer noted that the original Homewood master plan was drawn up in 1904, and was not substantially revisited for revisions until almost 100 years later.

The master plan was revisited in the late 1990s when landscaping and the natural systems on campus became a priority. At this

SEE SYMPOSIUM, PAGE A4

## Typhoon Haiyan inspires students to help victims

By NICOLE ZIEGLER  
Staff Writer

Throughout this week, several student groups are coordinating efforts to help victims of Typhoon Haiyan, which swept through the Philippines last week.

The University's new-

est sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta (Theta), is teaming up with Pi Kappa Alpha (Pike) to raise funds to benefit the victims. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday this week, Theta and Pike, with assistance

from other Greek organizations, are both raising money and awareness among students for the destruction caused by the typhoon in the Philippines.

Sophomore Ivana Gutierrez, the service and philanthropy chair for Theta, has spearheaded the group's

efforts to bring awareness to campus. She has helped coordinate efforts in which members of Greek Life hand out free cookies on the breezeway along with flyers including information about Typhoon Haiyan.

Filipino students on campus, such as sophomore

Paco Tantuico, have noticed the groups' efforts.

"I feel like Hopkins has no obligation to help, but ... people are willing to go out of their way to help."

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**- Sophomore  
Paco Tantuico**

students, and I guess I can say I'm surprised and grateful then even from all the way here people are willing to go out of their way to help," Tantuico wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

On the Breezeway, members of Kappa Alpha Theta

SEE TYPHOON, PAGE A5

## Hopkins deans outline trends in urban America

By ALEXANDRA  
BALLATO  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday night, Dean of the Krieger School Katherine S. Newman and Dean of the School of Education David W. Andrews led a conversation in Boston on the future of American cities as part of the University's capital campaign, "Rising to the Challenge: The Cam-

paign for Johns Hopkins." The event focused on the University's new Institute for the American City—one of President Ronald J. Daniels' Signature Initiatives—and the role universities can play in redeveloping urban cities and schools.

This discussion, which was also streamed online, delineated the University's plans for what Trustee Heather Murren called the

largest and most ambitious Johns Hopkins campaign yet.

Murren explained that Hopkins is fully equipped to tackle lofty issues such as poverty, segregation and urban decline because it has all three tools needed to succeed in this ambitious endeavor: brilliant people, collaboration between disciplines and funding.

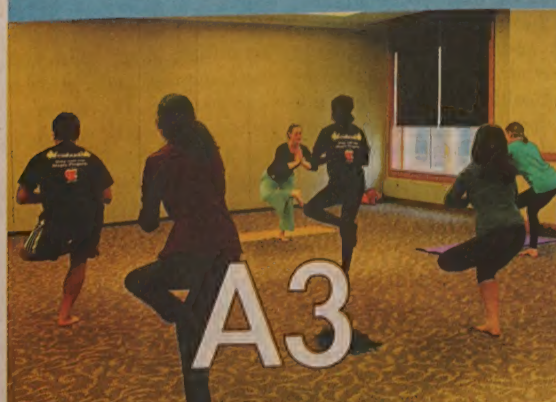
22,000 people have contributed to the third ingredient, helping to raise half of the \$2.25 billion goal.

"Philanthropy can change the state of play, as we're about to discover," Murren said.

Half of the global population lives in cities, but such urban centers have suffered depopulation since the 1950s. Baltimore

SEE AMERICAN CITY, PAGE A4

### INSIDE



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## Five universities compete in marketing competition

### JHU hosts American Marketing Association contest

By **EMILY HERMAN**  
Staff Writer

The University's American Marketing Association (AMA) chapter hosted students from five other universities and six guest speakers for their 1st Annual Regional Conference in Charles Commons last Saturday.

The event also included a case competition, in which student teams presented a marketing plan that addressed the needs of MindSumo, a career-building service founded by Keaton Swett, a 2011 graduate of Hopkins.

"It was nice to actually be able to use what we've been learning in the classroom," Britta Nissen, the vice president of membership of Towson University's AMA chapter, said.

A team from Shippensburg University took home first place, while two Hopkins teams earned second and third place. Three other Hopkins teams competed in addition to two teams from Towson University and Slippery Rock University each and one team from Carnegie Mellon University.

AMA faculty advisor Leslie Kendrick said that although Hopkins students did not earn the top prize, she was pleased with the overall performance of the home teams.

"This particular team of students [from Shippensburg] distinguished themselves both with their creative ideas and with how thoroughly they addressed the client deliverables," Kendrick said. "[All] students gained the ability to work on real world business problems through this case competition."

The teams were given a week to develop their presentations and had 10 minutes to pitch their ideas to the panel of judges. Afterwards, the judges were able to ask questions and offer feedback. The top three teams presented a second time and were able to incorporate the judges' suggestions.

"I knew the people [on my team] from classes, but getting to know them better under pressure in a non-classroom environment was interesting," senior Lauryn Capers, whose team won second place, said. "It was nerve-racking at first, but knowing [the judges] actually enjoyed what we were doing was really cool."

Through the competition, students were able to practice teamwork and work on their public speaking skills.

"It's very important for developing the skill-set that people need [in a career]," freshman Noah Pressler said. "You'll need it for interviews and it develops character."

Although many students were nervous about presenting in front of the judges — all of whom were marketing professionals — they noted that the judges made them feel at ease.

"[The judges] were really welcoming and

friendly, and it made us more comfortable," Slippery Rock senior April Sorce said. "It was more like we were having a conversation as we were presenting."

Students also interacted with guest speakers, including Hopkins alumni Taylor Schulte and David Carasiti, who work for Under Armour and IMRE, respectively.

Additional guest speakers included Tilea Coleman, Under Armour's director of corporate communications, Hayes Roth, Landor's chief marketing officer and Jay Sethi, senior brand manager of CoverGirl cosmetics at Procter & Gamble. Swett also spoke about his experiences starting MindSumo.

"We actually [brought]

**We actually [brought] people who are successful in the real world, and [we can] try to emulate them.**

**-NICK CERRONE, VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE FOR THE HOPKINS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION**

people who are successful in the real world, and [we can] try to emulate them," Nick Cerrone, vice president of finance for the AMA, said. "It gives a lot of people insight into what people are doing today in the industry."

The conference was the first major regional event for the Hopkins AMA chapter, which was founded in 2008.

Cornelia Coté, AMA's vice president of internal operations, said that the chapter was inspired to plan this event after attending the national AMA conference in New Orleans last spring and learning about what sort of events other collegiate chapters organized.

"We thought we have the resources, we have the speakers, we have the Baltimore community, so we decided to do it," Coté said.

In addition to the 40 students who competed in the case competition, several AMA members from both Hopkins and other universities attended just to observe, network and support the group.

"We just have a great [AMA] community in Maryland," Kayla Santos, vice president of events for the University of Maryland at College Park's AMA chapter, said. "Continuing the relationships between AMA chapters is really important and I'm glad to see that there's multiple chapters represented here."

Liz Bagdorf, the AMA's vice president of programming, said that she received positive feedback from the organization's representatives from visiting schools.

"Several chapters said that they want to put on a similar regional conference at their own schools based on what we did," Bagdorf said.

In addition to planning another regional conference next year, the AMA hopes to put on more marketing-centric events for students interested in the field.

"Marketing is important in any aspect of life because in any profession you go into, you're going to have to market yourself if not a product that you've created," AMA president James Fanto said.

## Prof. David examines Syria, Iran in talk

By **RACHEL BECKER**  
Staff Writer

Last Friday the Hopkins Hillel and the Jewish Students Association (JSA) invited Professor Steven David to give a talk about the impact of nuclear negotiations with Iran and the conflict in Syria on Israel, the United States and the world.

David is the vice dean of undergraduate education in the School of Arts and Sciences and a faculty member in the Political Science Department.

One of the main areas of discussion was the conflict in Syria. David pointed out that Syria is Iran's only major ally in the Arab world.

According to David, over 110,000 people have been killed thus far in the conflict. Importantly, the majority of casualties in Syria have been civilians, or noncombatants. He also said that chemical weapons have killed about 1,400 people since the civil war began.

David noted that there is currently a de facto partition of the country based on militant groups. The varying groups of people have different perspectives and proposed solutions to the conflict. David highlighted some of these viewpoints.

"Some argue the best solution for Syria is a multi-state system, though it is unclear how stable this would be," David said.

However, according to David, not all analysts see peace in Syria as the favorable solution.

"If you talk to the realists, what they say is that the best solution for America and Israel is for the war to continue. For the al-Qaeda types to kill the Assad types and have two unsavory groups killing one another. And that as long as they are occupied with each other, they're not cre-

ating mischief for others in the world," David said.

David went on to discuss how humanitarians believe that because the majority of people being killed are innocent, the conflict is deserving of global attention and intervention. David noted that such attention was absent until chemical weapons came into the picture.

President Bashar al-Assad is Alawite, yet the majority of Syrians are Sunni Muslims, a separate sect.

"The Iranians however are Shia and support Assad. Plus he has the backing of the Alawite community and that of some of the minority groups in Syria like the Christians," David said.

The minority groups fear what would happen to them should the Sunni Muslims take over Syria.

In discussing how the conflict in Syria is relevant to the U.S., David highlighted the fact that Syria borders many key states like Iraq, Israel and Jordan. However, David made no suggestions regarding what the U.S. should do.

"The quandary America has is even if it wanted to do something about the Syrian conflict, what can we do? It's not obvious. No one wants to send troops to Syria. I don't know of any responsible party that talks about a major military intervention. I think that's off the table," David said.

He is not optimistic about the chances for a swift solution.

"If we can topple Assad, get rid of Iranian influence, remove a government that supports terrorism, all of this is good. The problem is with so many of the insurgents being Islamists, we don't want Assad toppled by an al-Qaeda-linked group. That might take a bad situation and may make it worse," David said.

Another main point of David's talk was the prospect of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons.

"Iran is hell-bent on developing the capability to develop nuclear weapons," David said. "About that there is almost no controversy."

Fissile materials are required to make nuclear bombs. One type of fissile material, uranium, exists as a natural element. David noted that only 0.7% of naturally occurring uranium is the U-235 necessary for fission. While obtaining fissile material is not easy, it is possible.

Plants with hundreds of spinning centrifuges are used to enrich U-235 until it reaches the point where it can be used, either for civilian or military purposes. Many of the Iranian centrifuges are located underground or in hidden locations, making it a challenge to destroy them aerially.

The same centrifuges that are designed to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes can also be used to make nuclear bombs.

"The Iranians say they only want to enrich this uranium for use in a nuclear reactor," David said. "For use in a nuclear reactor you only need it to be enriched to about three or four percent or at most 20% [abundance]."

The other route to nuclear capability is acquiring plutonium, a man-made element created in nuclear reactors.

According to David, the Iranians are currently building a nuclear reactor in Arak, Iran.

"We and the Israelis are very concerned that the purpose of the reactor is not to produce energy but simply to create plutonium to give them another path to a nuclear weapon," David said.

However, David made

clear that the Iranians will demand the right to enrich uranium in any negotiated settlement.

"Our fear, the Israeli fear, is that [in] giving them this right means, they will use it to make a nuclear weapon," David said.

However, on this topic, David noted that the United States and Israel have different views.

"President Obama has said he will not accept Iran with nuclear weapons. The Israelis have said they don't want Iran to have the capability to produce nuclear weapons. It's a bit of a nuanced difference, but it's a difference," David said.

According to David, the solution to the issue is to heavily regulate and inspect production of fissile materials. However, there is a fear that if not heavily regulated, Iran will have "breakout capability" and build a bomb between inspections.

Attendees generally agreed with David's assessment of the situation.

"It's an extremely important issue, and I think the speaker did an excellent job of both expressing that importance and fully explaining the depth of the issue," freshman Nick Mangano said. "The importance of the issue can be understood through multiple perspectives, but simply when considering American interests, a nuclear Iran is very unsettling. Regardless of your personal stance, the speaker was knowledgeable and engaging."

The Assistant Director of Hillel Jonathan Falk echoed Mangano's sentiments.

"I thought Dr. David gave incredible insight into the tough and sad situation in Syria. It is very important for us at Hillel to hear the many facets and ideas that are happening around the world," Falk said.

## World Health Council hosts cultural banquet

By **SARI AMIEL**  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, the Glass Pavilion was filled with international music and flavors, as the World Health Council raised funds for a charity that brings drinkable water to developing countries.

This was the first time that the Council, which was founded last year, held a World Health Banquet.

"I wanted to have an event where all the cultural groups and health groups came together," said club president Aleesha Shaik.

According to Shaik, the Council hosted three cultural groups, South Asian Students at Hopkins (SASH), Hopkins Ethiopian and Eritrean Society (HEES) and the Black Student Union (BSU), three health-related groups, Preventative Education Empowerment Peers (PEEPs), the College Diabetes Network and Engineering World Health and three entertainment groups, Temps d'Afrique, Notes of Ranvier and Stop! Look at Me (SLAM).

Attendees of the event paid for their dinners as they entered the Glass Pavilion, with the funds going toward a group called "Charity: Water." At the start of the evening, the Council aired a video about the problems related to clean water shortages. The video noted that many women walk three hours to get unsanitary water on a daily basis, and outlined what "Charity: Water" is doing to address this problem.

Freshman Erica

Schwartz, a member of World Health Council, attended the banquet. She is also currently on the Council's publicity committee.

"Global health was something that really interested me and that I care about," she said.

At the event, she was looking forward to seeing how the various entertainment groups would relate their performances to the theme of world health.

At the back of the room were posters, created by some of the health and cultural groups, that displayed facts about clean water. One group had an interactive activity, which involved matching up various statistics with facts regarding domestic abuse. Another poster described health disparities for African Americans in the U.S., while HEES had a poster that described health policies in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

"This event is good because it does publicize a lot of these [health] issues," said HEES president and junior Samuel Kebede.

This is the first World Health Council event that HEES was involved in, but Kebede enjoyed it and is open to being involved in more such events in the future.

After the attendees learned facts about international public health, the Council served food that was obtained from several local businesses, including Indigma and Salsa Grill.

After describing their mission to raise money for "Charity: Water," officers of the World Health Council conducted a raffle and awarded the winners reusable

water bottles. Temps d'Afrique, a dance group based on African and Caribbean themes, performed next, followed by Notes of Ranvier, an a cappella group and SLAM, a hip hop group.

Senior Mani Keita, a captain of Temps d'Afrique, was involved in the performance, along with eight members of the 17-member dance team. Rather than preparing a dance for this particular occasion, the group performed some of the dances that it had choreographed earlier in the semester.

"We support world health, and it's a charity event for water, and being an African dance team ... we're quite familiar with the health disparities that affect the African diaspora," said Keita.

She was most looking forward to sampling dishes from different countries but ended up enjoying a different part of the event more.

"My favorite part was that video they showed in the beginning," said Keita. "It was a comprehensive video that appealed aesthetically."

Some of the students who attended the World Health Banquet were not members of the many groups that were involved in the event.

Junior Kidist Katema came because one of her friends was a member of the World Health Council.

"I thought it was a good charity event," said Katema. "The money was going to a good cause."

Planning this event required contacting the groups that were involved, which posed a challenge

for members of the World Health Council.

"It was sometimes difficult to get people to respond quickly, so we didn't get a chance to finalize all the groups until this past weekend," Shaik said. "We also wanted performing groups from different regions of the world and different dance styles."

However, Shaik knew this would be a difficulty, since nine groups were involved in the event. Once the groups had responded, Shaik also had to advertise the event and obtain food.

"We decided that we wanted food from different cultures because it's a global event so we just called around [at] a bunch of places ... and then we just picked the best deals," she said.

After the event, Shaik said she was considering having a similar banquet next semester. She might also organize another Water Walk next semester. In this fall's Water Walk, students were given a reusable water bottle if they carried a gallon of water on their heads around the freshman quad, to model how women and children carry water in impoverished areas of the world.

"[The Water Walk] was actually really successful, more successful than I ever thought it would be," said Shaik.

This semester during reading period, Shaik is teaming up with Circle K, a community service group, to air a documentary called "Girl Rising," which is about the importance of educating women around the world.



ELIZABETH CHEN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Congressional candidate Dan Bongino spoke to students on Thursday.

# Republican candidate comes to Homewood

By AMANDA AUBLE  
Staff Writer

Last Thursday evening, the Hopkins College Republicans welcomed Maryland Congressional candidate and former Secret Service agent Dan Bongino to meet with students during a talk titled “Perspectives from a New Generation of Leadership.”

“This year we’ve really focused on reinvigorating the club, because it had been on more of the inactive side the past few years,” College Republicans President sophomore Christine McEvoy said. “[We plan to do this] by bringing Bongino in to be the main speaker for this semester and then also having meetings [and by] engaging with the Maryland community and the Republican Party at the state level as well so that we have a better understanding of the state that we are living in.”

Bongino, now 39, was a member of the US Secret Service for 12 years protecting President Barack Obama and President George W. Bush. However, he chose to resign from his behind the scenes position in order to pursue politics on his own.

He recently published a book titled “Life Inside the Bubble: Why a Top-Ranked Secret Service Agent Walked Away from It All,” which details his story.

Bongino was Maryland’s Republican candidate for Senate in 2012 but lost to incumbent Senator Ben Cardin. He now plans to run for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives for Maryland’s 6th district.

The College Republicans, who first met Bongino on their recent trip to the Maryland GOP (“Grand Old Party”) Oktoberfest over Fall Break, consists of approximately 100 members on campus.

“I didn’t know that much about him before the meeting, but we were really impressed by his enthusiasm and his energy,” McEvoy said. “He really brings a sort of X-factor that we really want to see out of young Republican leaders, or at least what young people like me would like to see out of Republican leaders.”

A handful of Hopkins students as well as several interested students from nearby Loyola University attended the lecture.

Hoping to enliven support from the often-neglected young adult age group, Bongino presented the lecture as an informal conversation.

“I focus almost exclusively in my outreach — meaning outside of the district — on colleges because it’s a tautological statement to say that you’re the next generation. I think [of] us as a Republican party and

I think a lot of folks in the group have acknowledged that we’re doing a very poor job reaching out to that 18-24 crowd,” Bongino said.

Bongino began by discussing his experiences prior to choosing politics. After graduating from the City University of New York with a degree in Psychology, he became a New York City Police officer.

“I found my way again and really kind of saw the devastation and economic destruction of New York City up close and personal by liberalism,” Bongino said.

Distancing himself from the views of traditional Republicans, Bongino maintained more libertarian viewpoints when expressing his opinions on multiple subjects like the economy and healthcare.

He also emphasized his ideas to reform the stereotypical Republican image.

“When I decided to run for senate I had nothing but people telling me please

He really brings a sort of X-factor that we really want to see out of young Republican leaders.

— SOPHOMORE CHRISTINE McEVoy, PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

that his campaign aims to meet voters all across Maryland.

“There are definitely opportunities for people who want to campaign for him,” McEvoy said. “He is running in the 6th district, which is more of western Maryland, but there are definitely a lot of opportunities because he travels all over the state. He does talks at multiple colleges and towns outside of the district just to really get the word out and talk to people, and he really wants the students to be a part of that as well. So they are welcome to contact his campaign, and if they need help they can contact the College Republicans here.”

After a brief discussion about Bongino’s experiences and his general beliefs, Hopkins students in attendance asked about Bongino’s stance on specific, relevant issues.

The talk concluded and students were encouraged to relay their contact information to either learn more about or volunteer for Bongino’s campaign.

The Maryland Congressional elections will be held on November 4, 2014 and Bongino will be running against first term incumbent John Delaney.

In the future, the College Republicans plan to host more speakers promoting political awareness.

“We’re very happy with the turnout we’ve had so far and we do hope to grow more with some of the events we’re planning next semester,” McEvoy said.

By OLIVIA DE RAADT  
Staff Writer

On Friday, the Chemistry-Biology Interface (CBI) colloquium titled “Drugs and the brain” hosted Professor Solomon H. Snyder, award-winning neuroscientist and director of the Johns Hopkins University Department of Neuroscience.

Snyder began his career at Hopkins in 1966 as an assistant professor of Pharmacology. Seven years later, he was a full professor of both Pharmacology and Psychiatry, and he had discovered the existence of opioid receptors in the mammalian brain alongside graduate student Candace Pert.

“I was interested in neurotransmitters and drugs from the beginning. I still am,” Snyder said.

Opioid receptors have a high binding affinity for opiates such as morphine and methadone. Located within the central and nervous system, the attachment of an opioid compound to a receptor will result in pain reduction and feelings of euphoria.

“Why do we have opiate receptors if man was not born with opium inside of him?” Snyder asked the audience.

He went onto explain that opiate receptors do not respond solely to drugs that we abuse.

Following the discovery of opioid receptors was the identification of naturally occurring, endogenous peptides like enkephalins,

dynorphins and endorphins. Current research suggests that these endogenous peptides play an important role in motivation, emotion, relationship-development and response to pain or stress.

The presence of opioid receptors can be likened to the existence of cannabinoid or nicotinic receptors, both of which are activation sites found within the human body. While cannabinoid receptors do respond to THC, they function naturally within a class of cell membrane receptors, reacting to human-produced endocannabinoids. The same is true for nicotinic receptors, which can respond to Nicotine, but also serve a crucial role in human cognition.

Together, endogenous peptides and exogenous opiates, like morphine, control sensations such as pain reduction and euphoria in the body’s opioid system. When the opioid receptors of the brain are rewarded by drugs of abuse, the endogenous opioids and their receptors are affected accordingly.

“The regularity with which a drug enters the brain determines its subsequent potency,” Snyder said.

Current research suggests that repeated exposure to drugs of abuse leads to the deregulation of the endogenous opioid system, consequently resulting in drug craving, seeking and relapse behaviors. That being said, Snyder noted that factors such as opioid receptor variance

and genetic susceptibility to addiction influence these findings.

Freshman Barbara Merryman, an aspiring Public Health major, found the talk especially engaging and applicable to her studies.

“It was interesting to hear Snyder’s lecture after taking BBC this semester,” Merryman said.

BBC, also known as Foundations of Brain, Behavior and Cognition, is an introductory Physiopsychology course at Hopkins.

“It’s awesome to have people like Snyder right here on campus and a seminar series highlighting their work,” Merryman said.

Lauren Boucher, a graduate student in the Hopkins Chemistry-Biology Interface program, helps organize these CBI colloquia.

“With the internal speakers seminar we’re trying to highlight different, prominent professors from across the University,” Boucher said.

Past speakers have included Mario Amsel, a renowned structural biologist and Paul Talalay, who discovered the cancer-fighting benefits of broccoli sprouts.

“While [Snyder] is more involved in psychiatry and neuroscience, he has a pharmacological background as well, which is affiliated with both chemistry and biology,” Boucher said.

The CBI Graduate Program was founded in 2005 and is one of the few programs in the country that

awards a Ph.D. in Chemical Biology. The program provides students with the opportunity to study chemistry and biology in a more interdisciplinary manner, employing both global and health-related perspectives.

“The CBI program is spread out among chemists, biologists, biophysicists and pharmacologists. It’s great to get these people that can kind of touch all the different fields and are right here at Hopkins,” Boucher said.

Eileen Hurn, a local Baltimorean, also enjoyed the colloquium.

“I always kept up with Hopkins stuff, ever since I first moved here,” Hurn said.

Hurn moved to Baltimore from St. Louis in 2004 after being transferred by her then-employer.

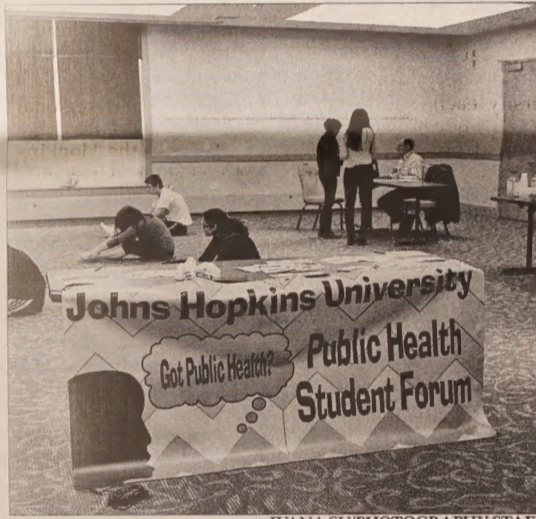
“I love science, I have always loved science,” Hurn said. “When the CBI Graduate program was set up, I was just fascinated. I thought, ‘that is such an amazing idea.’ So I’ve attended these CBI colloquia and each time I’ve just been blown away. Today was no exception.”

Hurn, who is now in her mid-fifties, remembers when Snyder’s discovery was first publicized. She was a college student completing her undergraduate studies at St. Louis University.

“I knew this study was going to change everything,” Hurn said. “I think that’s when I first realized how spectacular Hopkins was.”



The Personal Health Fair, hosted by the Public Health Student Forum, offered health tips, massages, check-ups and yoga instruction at no cost.



IVANA SU/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

# Health fair features free yoga and massages

By RACHEL BECKER  
Staff Writer

This past Friday, the Public Health Student Forum (PHSF) teamed up with a number of health-related clubs on campus to host a Personal Health Fair in Charles Commons Salon C. Groups represented at the fair included Stressbusters, the Center for Health Education and Wellness (CHEW), Preventative Education and Empowerment for Peers (PEEPs) and the Student Health and Wellness Center, also known as HelWell.

The event was free to students and featured massages from the members of Stressbusters, free food items such as chocolate mousse made from tofu, yoga classes from the Fitness Director of the Ralph S. O’Connor Recreation Center and booths relaying information from PEEP’s and HelWell.

“This is part of Public Health Awareness Month, which is the biggest event the PHSF puts on in the fall of every year, and each week has a different focus — this week being personal health. So we wanted to put this event together to bring together multiple aspects of personal health into one free event for students,” Claire Rosen, president of PHSF, said.

Since Public Health Studies is one of the most popular majors on campus, PHSF plays an important role among student groups.

“The PHSF club’s goal is to promote public health awareness month on campus, but also to create a sense of community among the public health majors,” Rosen said.

Stressbusters are trained volunteers who give five-minute backrubs and health information to students and staff. Anyone can request their services for an event and they give massages on Q-level of Milton S. Eisenhower Library (MSE) on Mondays from 8-10 p.m.

“I think the name really says it all. We really help people with their stress. People come to the library because they start freaking out and we calm them down a little bit,” freshman Elliot Frumkin said. “I chose to become a Stressbuster because the second week I was already stressed and I came here and it was amazing, so I decided to help out.”

Also in attendance was Dr. Alain Joffe, the director of HelWell. Joffe sat at a table with the electronic database of student medical records, which he could pull up upon students’ inquiry. According to him, most students stop regu-

larly going to their physicians around the age of 15.

“We set up this booth, since the [event’s] focus is on public health, to give students the opportunity to see if they’re up-to-date with all their recommended immunizations,” Joffe said.

Among these recommended immunizations, Joffe highlighted the importance of the flu shot. According to its website, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) strongly suggests that people receive a flu shot once per year. While there are several different flu vaccines, the CDC does not recommend one over another.

“We encourage students, yet again, to get a flu shot,” Joffe said.

Furthermore, Joffe referred to a 2008 study from the University of Minnesota and St. Olaf College that was published in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA). The study, titled “Influenza Vaccination Among College and University Students,” examined the effect of the flu vaccine on days of class missed.

30.2% of study participants were vaccinated and 24.1% of students experienced at least one influenza-like illness.

“Vaccination was also associated with significant reductions in ILI [influen-

za-like illness], associated provider visits, antibiotic use, impaired school performance, and numbers of days of missed class, missed work, and illness during the influenza seasons,” the abstract from the study noted.

According to Kavita Bhatnagar, events chair for PHSF, Hopkins students often overlook healthy living.

“In terms of student health I guess there are a lot of simple and fun ways to stay healthy and it’s something that people forget amidst all the work and stuff with college,” Bhatnagar said.

The health fair, however, provided an opportunity for attendees to learn easy ways to stay healthy.

“It was very fun and educational and I got a free pen,” freshman Kristen Lineback said. “The yoga was awesome too.”

Next week is international health week and PHSF is having an international potluck on Tuesday. A few of the cultural dance groups have been invited to lead workshops.

PHSF also hosts the Undergraduate Public Health Conference during the spring, which is their biggest event of the year and features oral presentations about student’s research or experiences related to public health.

## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## Deans discuss future of American cities

AMERICAN CITY, FROM A1  
In particular has lost a third of its population to urban flight after the loss of manufacturing and is now experiencing a 22.4% poverty rate, according to the U.S. Census.

The introduction of the event explained a sentiment that much of the Hopkins community shares: We are not just located in Baltimore; we are of Baltimore.

Newman focuses her research on the working poor. In connecting her expertise to Baltimore, she explained the timeline of the Rust Belt cities and the ways in which they declined in conjunction with the loss of American industry.

"Cities were the heartland of industrial America," Newman said. Those urban centers, like Flint, Syracuse and Baltimore, felt a demographic shift beginning in the 1970s when the jobs that sustained them were either moved to the south or sent offshore.

At the turn of the century, some cities, such as Boston and Providence, experienced gentrification and revival as people moved back into the city and the poverty trickling out to the suburbs. Other cities, like Baltimore and Detroit, are stuck.

Newman explained

the symptoms of such stagnation in Baltimore: high poverty rates, single-parent households, abandoned housing, public safety, high tax rates and low tax resources.

There is hope, though.

"President Daniels has committed himself and committed this institution to being part of the solution," Newman said.

Other cities want to be part of this initiative and to take the measures that work in improving the conditions in Baltimore and import them to their own cities. Newman believes this could build a network of older, industrial cities that can attack specific issues like childhood obesity, high school dropout prevention and workforce training in an efficient way.

"If we crack the problem of childhood obesity in Baltimore, can Flint do the same?" Newman asked.

Similarly, other schools of the same caliber as Hopkins have begun to tackle issues in their own cities: Yale in New Haven, Conn., Harvard in Cambridge, Mass. and Brown in Providence, R.I.

"Most of us care about the cities we're located in," Newman said. "What makes us special is our plan to integrate the city into the plan itself."

Solutions, Newman ex-

plained, come from knowledgeable leaders, so it is important that Hopkins encourages its youngest students to become well versed in social policy. The Social Policy minor is the first step the university has taken towards that end in order to induce an interdisciplinary study of economics, political science and sociology through the lens of social programs.

Newman was excited to announce the restoration of the Parkway Theatre, an iconic structure built as a silent movie theater in 1915 that was left to decay in the 1960s. Baltimore City has given the structure to Hopkins, which will station its undergraduate and graduate film programs there once it is restored. The theater will also show Hopkins and MICA student films.

Newman hopes that this will begin to build the arts and culture backbone needed to establish Station North as an arts neighborhood and to attract the consumers that have previously fled the city.

As dean of the School of Education, Andrews' focus is on underprivileged and at-risk children and youth and their academic and behavioral trajectories.

His idea of an effective school consists of high quality teachers and lead-

ers, engaged families and students and personalized, evidence-based approaches. "It's about people," he said.

Andrews knows this is a widely shared belief, but one much more complicated than the average person may expect. "We don't have [leaders] in the areas we need them most," Andrews stated.

He believes schools have the potential to move away from teaching to the middle, an approach that has existed for the last couple hundred years. At the new \$53 million Henderon-Hopkins School in east Baltimore, cutting-edge technology and research will be used to educate 720 students from the age of 6 weeks through the 8th grade. The 7-acre campus is dedicated to a mixed-income population, with priority given to those who live and work in the neighborhood. The school will open on Jan. 2, 2014 and begin to work towards its founding principle: to maximize growth for every individual student.

Through the Institute for the American City, Hopkins will play a major role in revitalizing Baltimore City via its housing, schools and people. "Audacious is exactly what we expect Hopkins to be," Murren said.

## Israel activists promote humanitarian program

By ALEXIS SEARS  
Staff Writer

The Coalition of Hopkins Activists for Israel (CHAI) hosted activist Carmi Kobren to speak about the humanitarian international project Save a Child's Heart (SACH) this past Tuesday in Shaffer Hall. Kobren is the sister of the late Dr. Ami Cohen, the project's founder.

Founded in 1995, SACH is dedicated to bringing children who suffer from life-threatening heart conditions in underdeveloped nations such as Iraq and the Palestinian Territories to Israel for free open-heart surgery. It was created by Cohen, who assisted local children with heart disease while serving in Korea as part of the U.S. Armed Forces in 1988. There are offices for SACH in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Holland, Switzerland, Australia, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Vietnam.

Funding for SACH comes from a variety of sources, including family foundations and Kobren's campaign Children Saving Children, which collects money at schools and synagogues. The campaign typically raises \$60,000 to \$70,000 each year, which usually saves six or seven children.

Kobren noted that every 29 hours, SACH's doctors save a child's life.

"My brother's dream was that [the doctors] would [operate on] 250 children a year, and they reached 298 children last year," Kobren said.

Kobren spoke about SACH's mission and the measures that parents undergo to send their children to Israel, where they stay in the Legacy Heritage Children's Home for two to three months. After arriving in Israel, about six children are assigned to a chaperone. If the patient is an infant, the mother is sometimes able to travel to Israel with her child.

Kobren stated that SACH has changed substantially since its creation because parents who do not travel with their children are now able to communicate with them via computers.

Kobren relayed anecdotes about the children she met while in Israel. She told the students about a mother from Africa who sold her farm so she could afford a ticket to Israel to be with her son and a 72-year-old Italian woman who spent a year learning English so she could volunteer in

the home for two weeks. She also spoke of a clinic called Heart of the Matter, which meets every Tuesday to provide cardiac care to Palestinian children.

Throughout the presentation, Kobren stopped speaking to answer questions, giving rise to student inquiries regarding how they themselves could volunteer.

"I think it's important to understand the major things that are happening in Israel [and] the charities that are there that are helping people from other countries, not just Israelis. I think it's important to spread the good word about Israel, not just about the war and politics. There [are] great things happening aside from that," CHAI Treasurer Richard Mishaan said.

Mishaan was pleased with the turnout of the event.

"We could have had more people, but we usually don't have huge events. I think it's a great turnout," Mishaan said.

Founded in 2001, CHAI aims to spread awareness and to educate the student body about the positive aspects of Israeli society and culture. CHAI often partners with organizations such as Young Judea and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee to host events.

The logo of SACH, a hand with a heart in the middle, was created in 2003 by a four-year-old patient from Moldova named Katya who told Cohen that she had dreamt that a hand took her to a far-away country where she received a new heart that allowed her to dance and sing.

"That's the picture which we converted into the logo of Save a Child's Heart, because that's what really we're all about, making children happy, dance, sing," Kobren said.

Every year, there is an international SACH meeting in Israel. During the conference, people from all over the world go to the West Bank and visit the homes of children who had received medical help from SACH.

"That's the dream ... that [SACH] would be Israel's gift to the world and to the children of the world ... [other countries] would be able to see Israel as the humanitarian country that it is ... It is our belief that one day, one of these children we save will grow up to some seed of power and be able to help us with our neighbors," Kobren said.

## Future of Hopkins Symposium focuses on sustainability

SYMPOSIUM, FROM A1  
point, Roderer mentioned alumnus Michael Bloomberg's multimillion dollar grant in the early 2000s to replace the old pavement pathways and lots with red brick and marble walkways as well as green open spaces. She recalled the substantial effort made by architectural staff to complete the project — which made the campus both more sustainable and more friendly to pedestrians — over a single summer. During this time, almost all parking lots and roads were removed from the Homewood Campus.

Roderer also talked about the gutting of Gilman Hall, the construction of the Brody Learning Commons and the acquisition of the facility at Keswick for administrative office space.

She brought the audience's attention to the question of sustainability and how that has dovetailed with the evolution of the Homewood Campus.

"When you think of sustainability you think of green engineering ... very specific things," Roderer said. "But having a specific plan can be just as important."

Roderer made it clear that Hopkins is considering sustainable development specifically in all of its new buildings. She noted that all of the buildings built in the past five years or so were built to LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, standards. LEED is a system of green building tools and certifications drafted by the U.S. Green Building Council. Roderer said that many of the University's new buildings are in the process of becoming LEED certified and will likely pass the test.

Hopkins has also installed systems in most of its buildings, according to Roderer's presentation, which monitor temperature, water meter levels, and other significant measures of functionality. The systems help the University save energy and pinpoint and troubleshoot is-

sues.

Though Roderer didn't go into extensive detail regarding new sustainable projects that the University is working on, she did mention a 2011 Storm Water Management Plan that is being carried out, which includes building a system of cisterns, green roofs and natural green areas on campus.

Roderer also accepted comments and questions from the audience. Students seemed particularly interested in the University's plans for a future campus center or student union. Through a short survey sent out recently, students were asked to identify the place where "the heart" of campus lay. Most students identified "the heart" as the intersection between the Beach and North

Charles, where the campus meets the surrounding community.

Roderer said that ideas for the student center are in a very early stage of development, but that the results of the survey has led the staff to look at the area around the Mattin Center as a potential site for the new building. She said that she would probably be able to report more within the year.

The second speaker welcomed to the Future of Hopkins Symposium was Kara Peterman, a fifth year Civil Engineering doctoral candidate. Her presentation was about the use of a thin structural steel in buildings to promote durability, recyclability and resistance to seismic forces in the event of an earthquake.

Peterman compared cold-formed steel, the subject of her research, to origami. In fact, she said that cold-form steel is cheaper to recycle than it is to mine or to refine into an iron ore, and actually reduces industry consumption and energy use by 75 percent.

Peterman, a civil engineer by trade, attempted to

defend the position of the engineer in the process of sustainability. She asked the question of how engineers can help promote sustainability when LEED standards do not exactly go into detail on the structure of the building.

"Sustainability should be considered before step one," Peterman said.

According to her presentation, which cited the Athena Institute, 80 percent of buildings are demolished prematurely. Buildings that fail, whether due to poor planning or by environmental disaster, cause immense issues for cities that are forced to rebuild afterwards.

**Sustainability should be considered before step one.**

**—KARA PETERMAN, DOCTORAL CANDIDATE**

Peterman wanted to focus on structural resilience, and her research looks at the ways that cold-form steel can provide this resilience, especially in the event of an earthquake. She mentioned that though East Coast residents are relatively unfamiliar with seismic episodes, they can and may happen, and people need to be prepared. Peterman's team performed experimental procedures in which full scale structures of buildings were constructed out of cold-form steel and placed on "shake-tables" which simulate the full seismic force of an earthquake. Peterman showed videos of the results of her test to the audience, in which the structure remained intact after the test.

When a student asked why cold-form steel was preferable to other forms of steel for building, especially in the case of buildings of up to 13 stories in areas where earthquakes are prevalent, Peterman was quick to respond.

"Cold-form steel dissipates energy differently," she said. "It's a lot more flexible."

In the case of earthquakes, the more flexibility in the structural supports, the better. Though this flexibility may cause non-essential connecting pieces of the building to be more damaged, like drywall and framework, the bare bones of the structure are more likely to remain standing even against a powerful seismic force.

Peterman's work has given her a better understanding of the LEED standards.

"LEED is always good and is a necessary framework," she said. "But there is always room for improvement."

SHIP organizers were pleased with the event, and advised students to come to a spring event focused on faculty and students' research. Afroditi Xydi, a co-leader of SHIP, remained after the talks to take questions.

"We hoped to bring together a few speakers that would be interesting, not focused on any central matter of sustainability or environmentalism necessarily. We want to talk about the future at Hopkins," Xydi said.

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NEWS & FEATURES

# Documentary reveals impact of U.S. drone strokes in Pakistan

**WAZIRISTAN, FROM A1**  
Professor Bernadette Wegenstein, director of the Center for Advanced Media Studies, was also a panel member. She applauded Tahir's work.

"It's important to give an image to this kind of suffering," she said to Tahir. "You're lending your voice and your humanity to these people."

The film consists of several heart-wrenching survival stories and countless images of corpses and body parts strewn across piles of rubble.

Tahir wanted the testimonies to be as real as possible. Making the decision to use film instead of the written word was for him key to eliciting the most compelling response during the interviews.

"With a camera, it's much clearer to them what is being captured in a way that I think with writing, it's not," Tahir said about the interviews.

One of the survivors featured most prominently in the documentary was a teenage schoolboy named Saddam Hussein who lost his brother and sister-in-law in a drone attack.

"Death would have been better than this kind of life. I'm tired of innocent people being martyred. That's why I don't like my life anymore," Hussein says in the film, choking back angry tears.

Perhaps one of the most consequential decisions Tahir made was to use the word "martyred" rather than "killed" or "died" in the subtitles that accompanied the survivors' testaments. She explained that after hearing all of her interviewees repeat this same word in their language, she realized that "martyred" was the literal translation and that it certainly made an impact.

But not just any victim can be called a martyr.

"Martyrdom implies a cause," first year graduate student Anna Scott said. "What do these people think they're dying for?"

To this, Tahir replied, "Certainly these people and many of the survivors feel themselves to be at-

tacked for being Muslim, and that's how they conceive of this war. Some will connect what has happened to them with the wars that the United States has waged on other parts of the world. They are feeling that they are being attacked for who they are."

Later on in the discus-

terrorism.

"The killer drone strikes only promote more terrorism directed at the U.S.," political activist Max Obuszewski wrote in a letter to Congressman Elijah Cummings obtained by *The News-Letter*.

This certainly seems to be a common opinion. The

erally avoid labeling our opponents, and hope once presented with evidence they might reconsider their beliefs."

As mentioned, Wounds includes a clip from a speech Obama made this May addressing American drone strikes. In the address, the President recog-

by each strike. The second is that many of these civilians are considered by the American government to be militants.

"In spite of the assurances from President Obama that the victims of drone strikes are surgical targets, it has been reported that hundreds of vic-

use of drones, I have been against their use for military aggression. I do not believe that we, as a country, have the right to use our technological might to assassinate a citizen of a foreign, sovereign state. No matter how much of a threat we perceive someone to be, I do not think it is right to take advantage of drone technology we possess," Morphet wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Fellow IS major and freshman Alex Weisman, however, remains skeptical that drone use should be limited.

"This war is unlike any other war in the sense that one side wears clear uniforms, carries its weapons openly and targets suspected terrorists, at least attempting to discriminate between enemy combatants and civilians. The other side, however, couldn't care less. These terrorists not only use civilians as their shields, but also kill enemies and civilians alike. Many of the individuals in the film seemed to suggest that the United States is a terrorist in itself, but to suggest that the two sides are morally equivalent is ludicrous," he said.

"Although the loss of innocent lives in any military engagement is a tragedy, I believe that drone strikes do try to minimize the collateral damage. Although they cannot completely eliminate it, they certainly do a better job than ground forces would," Weisman added. "Part of our own government's responsibility is to minimize the loss of our own troops, and there's no argument that drones do that."



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A screening of the film "Wounds of Waziristan," which documents U.S. drone strikes in tribal Pakistan, was followed by a Q&A with the film's director.

sion, another member of the audience pointed out that in many languages, the word martyr also means "witness."

Tahir also spoke about how he struggled with whether or not to include the survivors' interest in taking revenge on Americans. She worried that no amount of attention would be able to do those feelings justice.

"I felt like I had to be very careful about how I presented them," Tahir said. "But I'm hoping to be able to write about this and engage with these questions."

She shared that one of her interviewees, Karim Kahn, claimed he would kill the first American soldier he saw for what was done to his family.

"I think there is no bigger terrorist than Obama or Bush," Kahn says when asked for his definition of

term "fighting fire with fire" was thrown around in Thursday's discussion.

"It's such an old argument to use: because they are lawless, it allows us to become lawless," co-panelist Veena Das said.

Tahir also talked about how she has experienced the hatred of people who are for the use of drones and how she is often attacked for being a "Taliban sympathizer." She said that it sometimes goes so far that the topic becomes almost taboo.

"As for those who support drone strikes, we would have trouble labeling them," Obuszewski wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We can assume they have good intentions, but four U.S. citizens have been killed by drone strikes. A real conservative would be very upset that U.S. citizens would be denied due process. We gen-

nizes the fact that the attacks have caused civilian casualties.

"Those deaths will haunt us for as long as we live," he says.

The problem with this, Wounds argues, lies with two realities. The first is that it is impossible to be certain just how many civilians have been "martyred" because their bodies are often rendered unidentifiable due to the amount of damage caused

times who are innocent of crimes against the US have been killed including civilian men, women and children. These people have names and families who love them," Obuszewski wrote.

International Studies major and freshman Adelaide Morphet was against the use of drones even before she watched the movie.

"Since I first learned about the governmental

## Hopkins rallies for storm victims

**TYPHOON, FROM A1**  
will also be collecting donations for the cause.

"We will be asking people as they walk by to give as much as they can. All the money will be donated to the American Red Cross," Gutierrez wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Typhoon Haiyan has caused thousands of deaths and has led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people in the Philippines.

In addition to the efforts of Theta and Pike, The Filipino Students Association is also working to raise funds to help the victims. The Association will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday evening in Charles Commons for the Typhoon Haiyan campaign. The entrance fee will be \$3, and all funds will go to the Philippine Red Cross.

"Well, I'm an international student, and I fly back home to the Philippines every long break I have. I see what everyone at home is doing, even what the other countries are doing to help, so I guess it feels like a duty of mine to help pitch in in any way I can. The event on Saturday is usually done every year. We don't usually advertise it, and we don't usually charge, but this year we are trying to get lots of people

aware and involved," Tantuico wrote. "For that event, our goal is to raise about 750 bucks. We also plan to make these fundraising events not just a one time thing. We plan on holding more for the rest of the semester. The other events are still being planned."

Even students without a personal connection to the Philippines are concerned about the humanitarian crisis there.

"I was devastated upon learning what had happened in the Philippines. Therefore, I think it is fantastic that students are making the effort to make sure the entire campus is aware of what happened and are contributing to the relief effort," sophomore Emily Schoenfeld said.

For more than a week, the international community has been making efforts to remedy the damage in the Philippines wrought by what was an incredibly powerful typhoon. Many Filipinos in the region continue to be in dire need of aid.

"Theta chose to do a fundraiser for the Philippines because, honestly, if you have the time and effort, why shouldn't you try and help the needy? As Thanksgiving creeps closer, it just makes sense. One of the members of the Theta Service and Philanthropy com-

mittee, Rebecca Jing, was the one who originally thought of this idea and we ran with it," Gutierrez wrote.

In addition to Theta, Pike, and the Filipino Students Association, other entities are also on campus collecting donations.


"I know the JHU Red Cross will be doing an event after the week Thanksgiving break — they are planning on selling Holiday (Christmas) Lights. It was something they did to raise money for Hurricane Sandy last year and was very successful then," Gutierrez wrote.

Not all students on the Homewood Campus are entirely satisfied with the general response here to Typhoon Haiyan.

"Besides Theta, who I saw on the Breezeway, I have not seen anyone really fundraising for relief in the Philippines. I know that we're all very busy, and it's hard to spend time outside fundraising in the cold, but after reading about the disaster I know that Homewood can do more," senior Stafford Enck said.

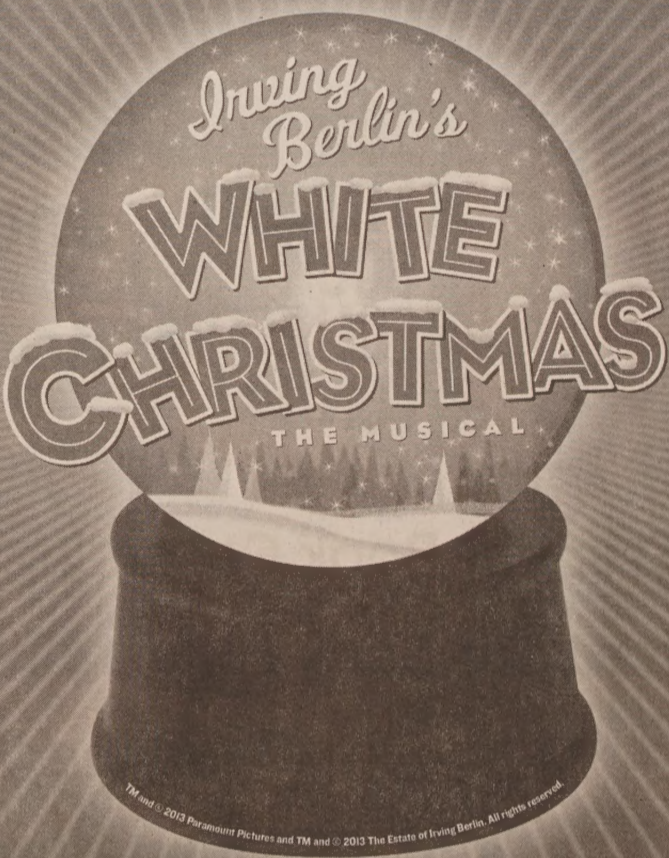
Others echoed that sentiment.

"Maybe I haven't been looking, but I am disappointed in the lack of response around campus to this tragedy," Gutierrez wrote.

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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## President's Reading Series author inspires attendees

MCCANN, FROM A1  
cool author in New York City," McCann said. "Why? I don't live in Brooklyn; I live on the Upper East Side."

Immediately following his joke, McCann segued into a passage that painted the inner workings of a mourning woman who lives on the Upper East Side and whose son died in the Vietnam War.

This pattern is reflected not just in hindsight, but also in the novel itself. *Let the Great World Spin* is an allegory for the September 11th attacks and takes place during the 1970s, a low point for New York City. However, McCann deigned to also include a cameo appearance of himself in the form of an anonymous bald man who is recognized as the local weatherman by a prostitute only after realizing that he is missing his hairpiece.

McCann's novels are dominated by both real and fictitious characters. His latest novel, *Transatlantic*, follows the lives of six people over the course of three centuries in the U.S. and Ireland. Although the three excerpts he shared with the audience were centered around Frederick Douglass's experiences in Ireland in 1845 and Senator George Mitchell's attempts to find a peaceful solution to troubles in the country in the 1990s, the four main characters are all fictitious women.

"Personally, I do not see a huge difference between fiction and non-fiction," McCann said. "Its all about storytelling. History gives us the big picture, but we use fiction to make our characters more relatable, more human."

When he set about creating the character of George Mitchell in his novel, Mc-

Cann specifically avoided any interviews with the man until he spent six months developing the character himself.

To prove his point, McCann introduced Senator Mitchell by making him change an infant's diaper.

"That is something you won't ever see in a textbook," McCann said.

When the real senator finally read what was written of him, he wholeheartedly approved.

Unlike many writers, McCann says that he is more comfortable crafting characters of the opposite gender.

"I don't know why, but I've always felt more comfortable writing in the voice of a woman," he said. "Women have a deeper emotional wardrobe than men do and there is so much more potential in their development."

McCann was born in Ireland, but moved to the U.S. in the 1980s after working as a journalist in his home country for several years. Unlike many of his countrymen, McCann was not running away from anything when he emigrated.

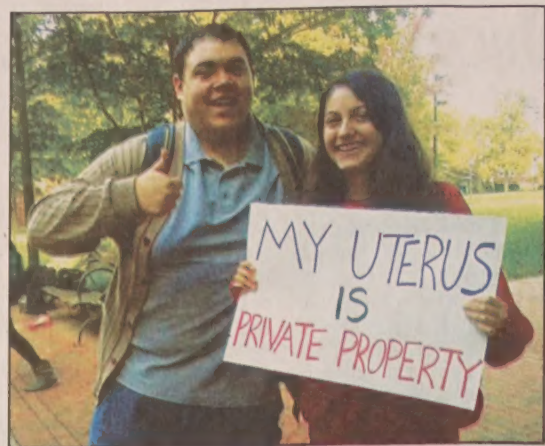
"I left because I was curious," he said. "There is something special here in America where an emigrant can be here and in their home[land] at the same time. Not a lot of countries are like there, where you can be accepted as both."

Students enjoyed McCann's reading. Freshman Alana DiSabitino especially enjoyed his reading from *Let the Great World Spin*.

"I thought he was great," DiSabitino said. "He was a good speaker, he acknowledged people's reactions and he kept people comfortable...although I had not heard of him before, I'm glad I came for my IFP class."



Even before VFC's founding, student activists promoted the Voice for Choice cause by protesting the "Cemetery of the Innocents" put on by VFL.



COURTESY OF VINITHA KUMAR

## New student group adds to political discourse

CHOICE, FROM A1  
surrounding reproductive health, anatomy and sexual assault. They plan to use only medically accurate, up-to-date information and hope to help remove the stigma from sexuality. VFC also aims to ensure that students are aware of the mental and physical health resources — both at Hopkins and on a governmental level — that are available to sexual assault victims.

Although the group was only recently officially approved as a student group by the SGA, VFC has been actively planning for the upcoming year as well as participating in events on campus.

"Since October, I have been working with students that have already graduated and had laid down the foundations for this club," Kumar wrote. "Some prospective members participated in an unofficial protest against Voice for Life's demonstration."

VFC's first official meeting will occur in December and include the new members that the group is currently recruiting along with the 11 current freshmen.

However, VFC already has many ideas of what they can do to enrich the campus. In their application to become a student

group, VFC listed numerous events they hoped to plan and execute throughout the year. These included free condom giveaways on the Breezeway, movie and documentary screenings on women's health, guest speakers to discuss sexual assault response and activism as well as informational sessions that go over Title IX, the Clery Act and the on-campus resources available to students in case of sexual assault, gender discrimination or harassment.

Thus far VFC has been well received by other student groups on campus who wish that the student body as a whole would pay more attention to these issues.

"Voice for Choice is an important addition to our community in light of the growing movement against reproductive rights, both on campus and in politics. Our group is excited that they will be getting resources from the University to fight for bodily autonomy, an issue that we care deeply about," senior Carrie Andrews, president of Hopkins Feminists, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

The Hopkins College Democrats also support VFC's viewpoint and goals. They worked alongside the Hopkins Feminists on a counter protest to VFL's

demonstration, "The Cemetery of the Innocents," earlier in the year.

"We always welcome more members to the progressive community at Hopkins, and I'm excited to see what VFC does. We not only need to defend a woman's legal right to choose, but also push back against some of the more offensive publicity stunts that have been taking place at Hopkins," junior Jordan Carmon, president of the College Democrats wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "It's important that we have a constructive dialogue on campus about these issues, and hopefully Voice for Choice will help us work towards that goal."

The Hopkins College Republicans could not be reached for a comment.

Even VFL, who holds an opposing stance to VFC, has expressed how beneficial they believe a new viewpoint will be for the Hopkins campus.

"While we disagree with the viewpoints of VFC, we respect their right to express them," sophomore Monica Rex, VFL Director of Media Relations, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Hopkins students are smart, and they want to have good conversations about controversial issues. Having both sides represented on campus will

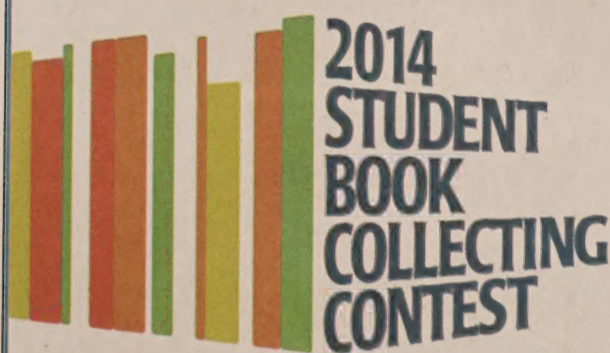
bring right to life issues the attention they deserve and let the truth win out in a way that students can form educated opinions for themselves."

Both VFL and VFC agree that students can always be more involved with issues like this on campus.

"During our Cemetery of the Innocents display in October, we asked hundreds of students what they thought about abortion. A large portion of students replied, 'I don't have an opinion,' or 'I don't know when life begins,' or 'I haven't thought about it enough.' Those answers simply aren't good enough for a university with some of the brightest minds in the world, including many future doctors, nurses and civic leaders who will have to make decisions about human life issues during their careers," Rex wrote.

Fields, a founding member of VFC, believes that the introduction of VFC will establish a more balanced environment on campus for debate and education.

"Whether it's education or socioeconomic issues or political viewpoints, a healthy debate is one of the best things a student can access on a college campus," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.



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**INFORMATION SESSIONS:**  
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Tues, December 10 8 PM McCoy MPR  
Mon, January 27 8 PM McCoy MPR

**APPLICATIONS DUE:**  
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HIP HOP

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Batkid takes a lunch break, but Ford and Stewart can't catch a break



**The Daily Beast** @thedailybeast


Even superheroes have to eat! Latest heartwarming #SFBatKid updates: thebea.st/1d2ZGd1 (photo: @abc7newsBayArea) pic.twitter.com/6JXN9Jb36J

Retweeted by Rachel Witkin

15 Nov



The only important news story of the week is Batkid. You really don't know what's up with the world if you didn't watch the adorable 5-year-old kid, who is in remission, live out his dreams by gallivanting around San Francisco and pretending to be Batman, saving the city from the antics of the Riddler and the Penguin — all thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This kid is so cool that Obama even made a Vine for him (we can talk about how weird that is later), and the Justice Department wrote up an indictment against the Riddler and the Penguin.



**Jay Leno** @jayleno

**Rob Ford wants to be Canada's next Prime Minister. If anyone's ready for the highest office in the land, it's the highest mayor in the land.**

Expand

17m

Rob Ford wanting to be Prime Minister is only the tip of the iceberg of crazy that happened this week. Not only did the Toronto City Council strip him of all his powers, but he attacked one of the council members and gave a bizarre apology for being insanely inappropriate during the council meeting, to which he showed up wearing a football jersey.



**Andrew Kaczynski** @BuzzFeedAndrew

**Millennials, our time has arrived: Oxford Dictionaries' word of the year is..."selfie" to.pbs.org/1b4qVm5 pic.twitter.com/RciT7EhJVp**

2m

Selfie is a legit word now? Sasha and Malia take selfies, too? What kind of world do we live in?



**Martha Stewart** @MarthaStewart

Follow

**Matsutake mushrooms sliced over broken rice and broth. Fragrant and very very good**



Apparently Martha Stewart has been tweeting gross pictures of food all week, and people just aren't having it. She seems confused, tweeting about how delicious her cooking is. Okayyy.

Choosing the perfect circle for social support

When I first arrived on campus, I was told that during freshman year I would befriend a large group of people based on extrinsic reasons (we lived in the same building, we had the same classes, etc.), and then towards the end of freshman or sophomore year, we would split up. Junior year would be a variable year, during which people would either form new groups as a result of sophomore year's events, or they would come together. Lastly, senior year would be a time to rekindle old friendships, foster new friendships, make personal improvements and resolve any remaining issues. This trend may or may not apply to you.

One thing it has taught

**Mani Keita**  
*Lumi de Lux*

me is the value of social support. The people you choose to invest in the most (your "inner circle," so to speak) will have a strong impact on you. They will help determine how you cope with certain situations. They will affect how you manage your time. They will affect every aspect of your life. That's why it's important to choose your friends wisely. It can be difficult at times to be "choosy" in college. How many friendships are developed as a result of a genuine, deep bond? How many friendships are developed out of forced circumstances or desperation? No matter what the answer is, make sure you are honest with yourself. You take on the attributes of your inner circle, so make sure the people in your circle will better you.

There are slick people in the world, and time may be the only factor that reveals the slickest of them all. However, there are some signs to help you avoid negativity. Gossip and drama may be riveting and interesting, but if you see that certain people bring CONSTANT gossip and drama, then you may want to rethink their status in your life. I know the library life can be boring, and a little bit of dramatic spice may help keep you afloat, but if you notice that the drama and gossip are bringing unnecessary stress in your life, then you should cut it out. I say unnecessary stress because there will be times when you or your friends will go through difficult situations, and you will need to be there for each other. It's up to you to discern if you have a close friend who seems to be always caught up in poor situations. But what do you do with the friends who are so much fun even though

your gut tells you that you shouldn't keep them close? Follow your intuition: don't let them get close enough to turn you into an irrational human. Then there is the Big 3. Ideally, in your inner circle you should have someone who has achieved certain goals you wish to attain, so that she or he can give you an insight into the process. You should also have someone who is at the same level as you, so that you can work together. No one makes it alone. Lastly, have someone who can look up to you — that way you can stay motivated, learn to be a mentor and remember where you came from. Beware of vampires; friendships can serve as routes of exchange, but be aware when one partner starts to take too much. It's corny, but it's true. At the end of the day, make sure you have no doubts that the people closest to you will be there to help you.

@rachel\_witkin  
*Tweets of the Week*

This weekly column features some of the top posts around the Twitter realm that deal with the week's top stories in sports, politics, pop culture and all things news.

“Cheap chic” is not so cheap — or chic

Economic uncertainty has a way of forcing our most beloved high-end designers into a fierce survival mode. Our current economic downturn has resulted in business actions that have fortunately placed high fashion within the reach of the broke (but incredibly fashionable) college girl without sacrificing brand image, but it has also resulted in concerning business decisions that have only functioned to betray the creative philosophies

Some brands, such as Yves Saint Laurent, have been tackling falling sales by investing more heavily in the recession-proof beauty industry. This direction has been successful in extending relatively inexpensive YSL beauty products to a wide range of income segments, essentially creating “accessible fashion,” while keeping brand image and the element of “luxury” intact. Others have been reevaluating company strategies (such as firing creative directors Marc Jacobs, à la Louis Vuitton), and expanding into international markets.

However, what is truly concerning about the aggressive approaches high-end fashion brands have been employing to stay financially afloat is their willingness to abandon the artistic philosophies that have guided them since their inception in favor of short-term financial gains. Since the onset of our most recent financial disaster, we have witnessed high-end fashion brands create low-end clothing lines for retailers, in the hopes of targeting the new uncharted middle class market segment. Lanvin, Versace, Isabel Marant and Karl Lagerfeld have each collaborated with H&M; Missoni and Phillip Lim have partnered with Target; and Vera Wang has created a new line, Simply Vera, sold exclusively at Kohl's. Ostensibly, it may seem as though these collaborations have finally made high fashion accessible to those who cannot afford to splurge on a \$350 sheer ruffled blouse. But the real question is: are we really purchasing designer garments at Target, or is the tag on our new blouse reading “3.1 Phillip Lim” just a deceptive selling

point for a common (and overpriced) floral blouse? The answer becomes obvious when we consider why in the world we sartorial maniacs would ever invest in an \$800 noir black Céline blazer in the first place. When we make purchases like these, we are essentially investing in a thoughtful artistic design, an unparalleled cut and a superior combination of fabrics, which come together to form a piece that will be part of our wardrobes for a lifetime. When we make “designer” purchases at H&M, we are committing ourselves to a piece that has

undergone virtually no artistic oversight and which is constructed of fabrics and cuts comparable to any other piece at H&M. Although there is no evidence that these “cheap chic” clothes are superior in quality or design to any other clothes at these retailers, they are certainly priced as such. Phillip Lim for Target A-line dresses are priced at \$50-\$80, and Simply Vera for Kohl's jackets and blazers are priced in the \$70 range. At H&M, sweaters from the recently launched Isabel Marant collection are priced above \$60, while a black wool-blend coat is priced at an astonishing \$299! Target dresses that are comparable in terms of design and quality — but not in name brand — are priced at around \$30, while H&M sweaters comparable to those of Isabel Marant for H&M are an affordable \$35. By purchasing overpriced “designer” clothes, it seems as though we've forgotten the very reasons we adore authentic designer garments in the first place: craftsmanship, artistic philosophy and quality. And by placing their names — which have come to be associated with the highest quality goods constructed by what we regard as superior tenants of design — on mass-produced, low-end garments, high-fashion designers have essentially abandoned the aesthetic virtues that have made them so well regarded in the fashion industry. Only time will tell whether consumers will proceed to revel in “affordable designer” goods or whether they'll soon realize that throwing on a \$25 H&M oxford shirt underneath a well-tailored blazer beats spending a fortune on faux designer duds.

Could it be that “cheap chic” is not so cheap and not so chic?

**Chelsea Olivera**  
*Femme Fatale*

HIP HOP

BUT ALSO observations, rants, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and, of course, sex.

# Miley can't stop — but should she?

I have a problem. I'm kind of in love with Miley Cyrus.

I never liked Hannah Montana, I wasn't a fan of "Party in the USA," and I hated *The Last Song*. It was all too cute for me. Miley has obviously grown up a lot since her days as Hannah Montana, and while this seems to be the reason why some people are upset with her at the moment, I think it's also the reason why she's become more appealing to me.

People talk about "the old Miley," as though she was supposed to retain the young, innocent, Southern girl next door image her entire life — grow into an adult Hannah Montana. With this expectation, people were bound to be disappointed. By changing her image, Miley hasn't done anything wrong. The only thing Miley has done wrong is allow herself to grow up in the public eye. Think about this: would people be as shocked by Miley's behavior if they didn't have a preconceived notion of her as Hannah Montana? If they didn't know what she was like as a child?

Why is it that Rihanna can have a song called "S&M," and sing about "yellow diamonds" (she's talking about ecstasy, kids, not actual diamonds), and yet when Miley Cyrus throws "molly" into one of her songs, everyone shakes their heads in disappointment? It's because Rihanna was never a Disney Channel star. We didn't watch Rihanna grow from a child into the adult she is now. For the public, Rihanna has always had the same image. However, I think we can safely assume that Rihanna didn't always dress or act the way she does now.

Of course Miley has changed. She's 20 years old. As college students, we should understand better than anyone that when you're in your 20s, you're still trying to figure out who you are as a person. You try new things in order to determine what you like and what you don't like, what style you prefer, what you believe, and what you feel most comfortable with. I don't think Miley is pulling an Amanda Bynes. I think Miley is just struggling to figure out who she is. Admittedly, she is being a little bit of an attention-whore about it (for lack of a better word). I mean, what else would possess someone to get frisky with a foam finger, twerk on a little person, and light up a joint on stage, all in front of millions of viewers? I suppose when you grow up in the spotlight, public attention becomes something you crave, a way of measuring your worth, however unfortunate that may be. However, if it's publicity Miley's striving for, she's certainly doing it right.

My point is this: if Miley wants to twerk, dress edgy, and smoke pot IN AMSTERDAM (when in Rome?), let her. She's not hurting anyone. Some people have argued this point with me, saying that she's become a bad role model for kids. But Miley isn't the only celebrity to dress provocatively and reference drugs, sex, and partying in her songs. Kids are exposed to hundreds of celebrities like this. Katy Perry's candy-covered costumes and positive attitude appeal to young girls, for example, but the singer has songs that include suggestive lyrics such as "I want to see your peacock," and "skinny dipping in the dark, then had a ménage à trois." Furthermore, her costumes,

although bright and colorful, also leave little to the imagination. So why is Miley the one being singled out?

I think everyone needs to calm down and let Miley be 20. Let's stop focusing on what she's wearing or doing and start focusing on her music. She is a singer, after all, and if you weren't aware, her new album, *Bangerz*, is killer. Seriously, I can't stop listening to it. Her voice is powerful, and if you don't think "Wrecking Ball" or "FU" proves this, listen to her cover of "Lilac Wine" on YouTube. The girl can sing.

Miley's not the first artist to push the limits in order to get a little publicity, and she certainly won't be the last. Does no one remember that time Madonna and Britney made out? What about when Christina Aguilera released "Dirrty" and basically writhed around in a bikini in her music video? Britney and Christina have turned out okay, so let's give Miley her moment of rebellion. Let's allow her to experiment, figure out who she is, and make mistakes like all 20 year olds do without judging her. After all, she can't stop. And she won't stop. And now that song is going to be stuck in my head for a week. It's just so damn catchy.

Nicolette Hatzidimitriou  
Guest Columnist

# Fresh finds abound at local farmers' markets

After a short JHMI ride to Penn Station and a few stops on the Purple Line you will arrive at one of the largest continuously running markets in the world — Lexington Market.

For over 230 years this market has stood on Lexington Street in downtown Baltimore, housing more than 150 local vendors, selling items from fresh produce and seafood to Hawaiian, Korean and authentic Chesapeake dishes. Open Monday to Saturday, it's an unknown and underrated place in the Hopkins community. Yes, it's a bit of a hassle to get to if you don't have a car. And yes, no one wants to carry their groceries from the street to their front door, let alone from the Inner Harbor to Charles Village. But take a trip downtown to buy your weekly groceries, eat a crab cake at Faidley's and have some fried chicken at each of the five fried chicken stalls. There's even a section of the market dedicated to non-food-related items such as jewelry, cosmetics and shoes. My bet is that the food that you buy here will be fresher, cheaper and better overall than the food offered in the stores near campus. It's worth the trek just to experience an integral part of Baltimore's history and the amalgamation of cultures that have

had such an international impact on Baltimore cuisine.

Still, on top of going to class, studying, clubs, research and part-time jobs, not all of us have the time to go all the way downtown to buy a head of lettuce and some fruit. So what do you do to ensure you're receiving the proper nutrition to get you through until Thanksgiving break? Sadly, most of the farmers' markets in Baltimore close around this time of year. The Waverly Farmers' Market on East 32 Street and Barclay Street, however, is one of Baltimore's few farmers' markets that are open all year long (every Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon). Lose yourself among the seasonal produce offered by numerous Maryland farms. Discuss the culinary world's sudden fascination with crème fraîche with the cheese purveyor at Charlottetown Farm. And don't forget to pick up a bag of cracked black pepper and old bay pickles at B'more Dills on your way out.

The Waverly Farmers' Market is my favorite place to buy groceries because of its proximity and the freshness, quality and variety of its products as well as the feeling of community it instills. Also, if the market doesn't have something I need, there's a Giant a few blocks down and a small store called Thai Philippine Oriental Food on

Gorsuch Avenue, that sells, despite the name, both Hispanic and Asian products, from dried chili peppers to Filipino sauces. It's located between 32nd and 22nd Streets off of Old York Rd., right behind Giant.

A farmers' market isn't just a place you can go to buy your weekly produce. It's a collection of ideas and initiatives that brings together a community. Walking through a market, you're able to see how much a community cares about sustainability, supporting local businesses and promoting good food. And most importantly it's a reflection of the history and cultures of those that comprise it. The Baltimore food scene is brimming and about to blow, and there's no

better way to be a part of it than to go to its source: the people producing the food. So open yourself up. Set aside \$5 every week and go to the farmers' market and buy something you've never tried before. If you have no idea how to cook, let's say, wood ear mushrooms, ask the purveyor how he or she would cook it. We see it all the time — people exploring and learning about other cultures through food. You have *No Reservations*, *Parts Unknown*, and *Bizarre Foods* to name a few widely-known television shows that do just that. So why can't you do the same? I implore you to burst open that Hopkins bubble in the most delicious way possible — eating your way through it!

# Spotify: the music lover's savior

In our advanced day and age of accessibility and information, the bounds of how we pursue entertainment keep being stretched outwards.

I mean, to anyone born after 1985 it is incomprehensible to imagine that people once had to go out and actually purchase music.

If you don't already have a Spotify account, hop on the Web and do yourself a favor because this thing is seriously a music fan's best friend.

I first discovered Spotify about two years ago, and it completely revolutionized the way I listened to music. Essentially, Spotify is a program that allows users to stream music from the "cloud" and save it in playlists or "star" their favorite songs.

Michael Louis Rosin  
Music, Movies and More

# Death Grips grabs attention again

Death Grips isn't exactly a group that is set to please anyone.

If anything, it honestly doesn't seem to care how many people it can aggravate or offend. Despite providing two of their three releases for free on the Internet ("Exmilitary" was a mixtape; "No Love Deep Web" was leaked last year), they also have become notorious for not only causing drama with labels by leaking material illegally (their previous scuffle and drop from Epic last year is a whole story in itself), but for cancelling performances and pulling no-shows. During their tour this year, Death Grips decided to not show up during the summer shows, instead putting up a "performance art display." This "performance" consisted of decoy gear set up with their music being played over the house speakers and a projector displaying an e-mailed copy of some Death Grips fan's suicide note. When this happened at their performance at Lollapalooza, it, naturally, infuriated many people. Death Grips then cancelled almost every performance date of their tour, revealing that they had planned not to even show up to any of those dates.

So with that in mind, it came somewhat out of nowhere when Death just leaked the LP "Government Plates" on their Facebook page last Wednesday, Nov. 13. It wasn't surprising that they released another album for free online; that isn't new territory for them. What was surprising was that they didn't have a label to vex. Back in May 2013, Death Grips announced the launch of their own label, Thirdworlds. It would be an

imprint within Harvest/Capitol records and find distribution through Caroline Records. They also announced that a new album was in the works, with a tentative 2014 release date.

There is no word yet whether "Plates" is that new album that was to be released next year, or if it was the soundtrack for the movie drummer Zach Hill was writing and directing over the summer. Whatever the case, until they release another album, plan a tour and then subsequently cancel or hear an announcement from Capitol about Death Grips violating their contract in some manner, we have "Plates" to enjoy for now.

Considering their discography, Death Grips doesn't cover new ground, so if you didn't get into them before, "Plates" won't help. While it doesn't have all of the emotional rawness of "Exmilitary," the catchiness of "The Money Store" or the intense anger of "No Love Deep Web," "Plates" finds a successful balance between the three. The lyrics and rapping concerning the chaos and anger present within the civilized, yet savage, society of the twenty-first century, are as present as ever. The production is superb and very diverse, creating rhythms and melodies that perfectly match the paranoid message of the lyrics. The drums this time, though, sound like they were recorded entirely on a real drum set, instead of the electronic drum sound they used for previous releases. This definitely adds a more primitive feel to the already "untamed" music.

Despite the uncomfortable vibes, the beats have quite a drive to them, that either give it a dance-inducing groove ("Feels Like

a Wheel," "Government Plates"), or a dynamic progression of energy that helps propel the song forward in an invigorating way ("Two Heavens," "This is Violence Now (Don't Get Me Wrong)"). Death Grips starts the album off with a really aggressive metal-rap song ("You Might Think He Loves You for Your Money ..."), but then interestingly ends with a song that frenetically switches between a cacophony of arpeggiated notes, synth pads, vocals, bass and drums to industrial-influenced ambient synth lines with passive drum patterns. It is as Death Grips flip-flops between flashes of anger and weary insanity, having gone through an album already expressing so much emotion.

This change across the album can be heard as the tracks go from intensely angry to relatively crazy. The track "Birds" is what marks the transition from frustration to craziness, truly highlighting the confusion brought about by their perceptions of society; this is probably one of their stranger songs I've ever heard, consisting of bizarre vocal and instrument samples over very offbeat and unsteady drumming. The change throughout the album seems to portray the sense of paranoia that creeps up over time with extreme exasperation.

Even though this album shows the Death Grips that we already know and "love" (used in the loosest terms) and doesn't show them venturing far (even though this material is still considered to be pretty "out there"), this is still a quality release on their part. Additionally, this is probably one of the better hip-hop albums to come out since Danny Brown's "OLD." So enjoy Government Plates before Death Grips inevitably offends you in some manner.

This is a foreign concept to us, the generation that grew up on flip phones and AOL instant messaging. Going out to a record store seems absurd and unnecessary; any music desired could be found through a quick perusal of the Internet's canals. However, up until recently, there was never a unanimous consent as to which was the best way to download music.

There was the sanctimonious bunch that believed that every cent of the song should be accounted for. This group of people usually had emaciated libraries due to their sense of integrity and, more accurately, ineptitude with technology. These people were always too willing to part with their 99 cents and usually gravitated toward the top 40 radio-type music.

There was the pirate, who went out of his way to download ludicrous amounts of music just to prove that he could. This was the type of person who would spend hours trolling the Internet, scavenging the back passages of the World Wide Web to do comparative checks on sound quality. These are the people who have lost their way — there is no chance in hell that they are ever going to get through the 40,000 songs rotating on their iPod classics.

For the majority of us, the happy medium that utilized a hybrid of purchased music, illegal downloads and file sharing, there was no proven way to effectively get tons of great music. It required a serious effort to be in touch and up-to-date in each specific genre of music, and downloading a lot of songs was slow and cumbersome. This left many listeners in an unsure middle ground between purchasing and pirating and often led to a user's library having many holes.

Cut to today and the solution that the majority of listeners have sought is

Spotify is a program that allows users to stream music from the "cloud" and save it in playlists or "star" their favorite songs.

It also incorporates social media by allowing users to scope out their friends' playlists and see what they're listening to. There is a free version, which forces you to suffer through unwelcome commercials, and a premium version which allows users to download music onto their hard drive commercial-free. What makes Spotify so revolutionary is its selection, expediency and organization.

When I first began using Spotify I was amazed at how much new music I was discovering. It is so easy to browse that I was exploring genres that I had never even given a chance before. The selection is so vast and the downloading process so easy, that at first it can even feel a bit overwhelming. It is akin to kid in a candy shop — everything is so tempting that you don't know what to try first.

My favorite feature of Spotify is the social aspect: if I ever am low on inspiration or need to add some variety to my music, I can always piggyback on what my friends have been bumping to. I really discovered so much new music through browsing my friends' playlists and exploring what they think is hype.

The one drawback of Spotify is that it only carries official releases, so anything that didn't get an official release, e.g. mixtapes, won't be available on Spotify. I combat this by supplementing from Datpiff and other file streaming websites, and those songs then get added to my Spotify account.

If you're having trouble compiling playlists, or are one of those people who feel they don't know enough music, Spotify is for you. It immensely improves your exposure to a plethora of different music types and can truly change the way you listen. Personally, it changed everything about the way I did.

Alex Hurowitz  
Music Rx

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Editorial

Health Fair is step in right direction

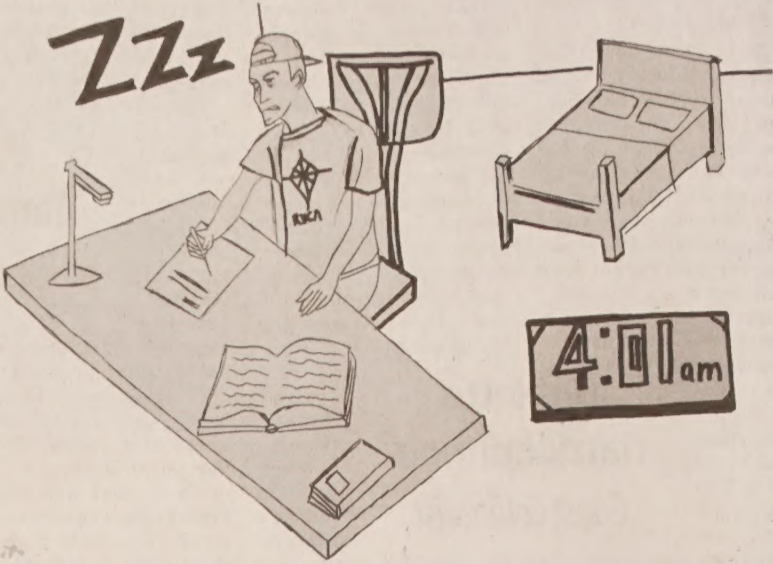
For a school so renowned for its reputation in the medical field, our student body cares very little about its health. Students walk through the campus sneezing and go to class running high fevers. This often has to do with strict attendance policies and the perceived difficulty of getting excused from classes for illness. While the issue of personal health becomes especially important during flu season, it should be a constant concern for the student body.

Many students feel they don't have time to deal with or worry about their personal health. It can be hard to use exercise as a stress relief so instead, many students "stress-eat" or chain smoke or, even more dangerously, get relief through alcohol or drugs. Bad habits relating to health often lead to more bad habits. The stress on this campus undoubtedly affects every student's health negatively.

The Editorial Board applauds the groups on campus that are dedicated to helping students with their personal health, and we were especially pleased with the Personal Health Fair that took place on campus this past week. Although it was not heavily attended, its motive was a step in the right direction in making sure students are more aware of how important it is to stay healthy, especially in a stressful environment like Hopkins. We commend the Public Health Student Forum for hosting such a relevant event and encourage them to continue their efforts. Perhaps next time, the event should be more thoroughly advertised so that even more members of the student body can benefit from the information such an event can provide. It is hard to break typical Hopkins students from their stressful routines, but the Personal Health Fair had an effective strategy by disrupting student's daily stress with positive messages and helpful setups, such as the opportunity for students to view their medical records to see if they were up to date on their immunizations.

There are many reasons why intense and stressful lifestyles can lead to bad personal health habits. However, Hopkins students should remember that bad health habits can often induce stress, rather than just vice versa. Personal health at this school is too often an afterthought, when it never ought to be.

Oscar Martinez-Yang



LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be e-mailed to [chiefs@jhnewsletter.com](mailto:chiefs@jhnewsletter.com) for inclusion in a Thursday issue. All letters received become property of The News-Letter. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include contact information and cannot be anonymous. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

Drone film shows faces behind attacks

Last Thursday, the Human Rights Working Group hosted a screening of the documentary film *Wounds of Waziristan*, which assesses the impact of US drone strikes on local communities in Pakistan. The event was attended by film director Madiha Tahir, who led a discussion and question-and-answer session with Hopkins students after the viewing. The film features numerous photographs of the gory aftermath of drone strikes, as well as passionate interviews with angry and mourning survivors, so there was no shortage of controversial content to discuss.

Two quotes from drone attack survivors proved particularly contentious. First, a teenaged schoolboy named Saddam Hussein (without relation to the deposed Iraqi dictator) whose brother and sister-in-law were killed by an American drone called the victims of drone attacks "martyrs", prompting discussion on just what cause the victims were fighting for. Secondly, another man whose family was killed by an American drone promised to kill the next American soldier he saw in revenge, and used recent American presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush as examples of the ultimate terrorist.

Needless to say, the Editorial Board does not endorse the killing of American soldiers, and nothing in this Editorial should be construed as agreement with anything these Pakistani men said. We recognize that from the American perspective, the initial reaction to such rhetoric is to equate the speaker with the violent and evil terrorists we've long been taught to loathe. Nevertheless, the Board feels such an emotional, knee-jerk vilification of the film's protagonists over-simplifies a complex issue. By preemptively discrediting (and thereby, encouraging viewers to ignore) anything else that any one of these drone survivors say, without regard to the context in, or perspective from which it was said, the film's critics miss an important opportunity to gather relevant and informative insight on the effectiveness of American tactics and policies abroad.

In foreign as in domestic disputes, much can be learned by placing oneself in the other's position. We laud Hopkins for hosting the screening of a documentary that gives us insight into another's perspective on the matter. It is rather easy for Americans to condemn calls for revenge from our comfortable classrooms and living rooms, thousands of miles away from the bloodshed. But how many of us can truthfully know how we'd react were we the ones orphaned by a seemingly random explosion? How can we judge the character of a teenager, choking back tears of mourning and grief, who expresses some anger at the people who killed his brother?

Debates abound about the relative effectiveness of drones at minimizing civilian casualties when compared with traditional ground forces, not to mention the effectiveness of the war itself at combatting terrorism and saving lives. But even the most conservative American estimates admit that collateral damage does take place, and the killed, maimed or orphaned children this documentary describes are the victims of that. Regardless of your political persuasion, we should all be able to lament the tragedy of war. Films like "Wounds of Waziristan" offer a somber reminder of that suffering.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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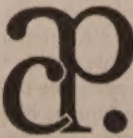
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Gatehouse  
(on the corner of N. Charles Street and Art Museum Drive)

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter is published every Thursday during the academic year by the undergraduate students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein, including opinions and columns, do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of The News-Letter and will be included on The News-Letter's website, [www.jhnewsletter.com](http://www.jhnewsletter.com).

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# OPINIONS

*With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.*

## The Whining School of Engineering: BME's, quit moaning

By CARISSA ZUKOWSKI

There seem to be two distinct groups of students at Hopkins: the BMEs, and the rest. From the moment we freshmen go around the room and introduce ourselves at orientation, everyone knows who the BMEs are. It only takes a few months on the Homewood campus for this unspoken, self-imposed undergraduate hierarchy to solidify. From superior to inferior, the ranking on campus goes as follows: BMEs, other engineers, pre-meds in the Krieger School and then everyone else.

We are judged based on our majors and what we choose to study. People make empty assumptions about workload and degree of difficulty of classes. Not everyone thinks this way, but enough do to create a strata that bounds the students in both the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and the Whiting School of Engineering.

In daily conversation, for example, I often hear the phrase "Krieger School of Arts and Crafts" thrown around by BMEs and other engineers. While clever, yes, this slogan carries with it a negative connotation. It implies that the School of Arts and Sciences is less rigorous than the

School of Engineering.

But just because the workload is more for the BMEs (as they are allowed to take more credit hours than the students of the Krieger School) does not mean anything in regards to the intensity and legitimacy of either school. Disturbingly, however, those who retelling to the Krieger School as the "School of Arts and Crafts" attempt to assert their dominance at the expense of another person's hard work.

When asked about the phrase, one anonymous BME student told me "[T]here are people in arts and science who seem like they could not have gotten into the School of Engineering, further adding to the idea that Arts and Sciences is much easier than engineering. Thus, the term 'arts and crafts,' in my mind, does not stem from a disrespect of the school itself, but from a difference in the caliber of student and amount of work."

It's easy to see how this mindset, even if presented as a game of teasing, can be viewed as hurtful and insensitive. When asked how they felt about the "Arts and Crafts" label, Public Health and French double-major Eda Akpek replied, "It is just rude how someone could be judgemental about the rigor of someone else's

course work. You can make anything as hard or intense as you like, it doesn't matter what discipline it is. What matters is how invested you are."

Jai Thakor, a Molecular and Cellular Biology Major, feels the label "doesn't recognize the breadth and complexity of the natural sciences" because "[m]any of the fields in arts and sciences are interdisciplinary and incorporate principles of engineering", while even one anonymous BME major admitted the phrase "implies that Krieger students ... take the easy route when the truth is they are striving just as hard to pursue their higher education (and, from what I can see, it's not any easier for them anyways)."

Each of these students identified engineers as the ones who use the slogan "Arts and Crafts," and addressed the division between BME students and everyone else. But one particularly understanding BME reminded me that "Teasing can go both ways. Probably the best comeback I have heard is 'Says the student from the Whining School of Engineering'. I kind of hope [this] catches on, because Krieger deserves some fodder."

Whether you are in the "Krieger School of Arts and Crafts" or the "Whining School of Engineering," and whether you are offended by

this hierarchy or choose to simply ignore it, it is unacceptable that as a community we belittle and devalue the classes that our peers take. It's not even limited to between the schools; this prejudice exists among smaller classifications as well. Between athletes and non-athletes, natural sciences and humanities majors, BMEs and Chem-BEs, the list goes on and on. We do this whenever we refer to a class as "Rocks for Jocks," or even just an "easy A." What may be easy or a "joke" class for one person isn't necessarily that for another.

People should neither brag nor complain about how much work they have. I swear, if I hear one more person say how they wish they were taking an easier major, "like English or Art History," I will scream. As a community, we need to support each other, not compete in the value of our work. No matter what school you study under, we are all a part of a university that thrives in the academic world. It is evident that we all work incredibly hard to ensure that it stays this way.

*Carissa Zukowski is a Freshman double-majoring in English and Art History from Baltimore, MD. She is a staff writer for the News-Letter Opinions Section.*

## Embrace weirdness of Hopkins culture

By JAMES CAMERON

I saw a beautiful thing Saturday night at 8pm: a crammed auditorium full of Hopkins students, all getting loud and proud for our very own acappella group, the JHU Mental Notes.

The Mental Notes absolutely killed it Saturday, as they sang across a wide range of genres, mixing in everything from Jay-Z to Ed Sheeran. But without a doubt my favorite songs were the ones written by the Mental Notes themselves. These songs melded the key features of being a student at Hopkins into poetic lyrics, accompanied the entire time by the vocal talent of the Mental Notes. To see a packed audience wildly cheering and laughing to the soaring notes of "F\*\*\* this Final" practically brought tears to my eyes.

Hopkins has always had a reputation for being filled with weird students, and lets face it, that's probably because Hopkins is filled with weird students. But why on earth should we be ashamed of that? Admit it: deep down in your heart, you know you are just as weird as the rest of the kids here. Otherwise, you wouldn't have been crazy enough to come to Hopkins.

Too often we choose to present our strangeness as a negative character trait. We crack jokes about the library being our student center (okay that's true...) or that we just named our mascot Jay the Blue Jay (still can't believe that happened). We act as if those are bad things, but the truth is that is part of what makes us Hopkins.

Of course I would love a place besides the library to hang out with my friends on campus, and yes it would be awesome to have a raging tailgate with Jay the Blue Jay. But for now those pipe dreams have yet to materialize. And that's not so bad, because on Saturday night I saw a student body that fully embraced who we are, flaws and all.

That was all it took to create a powerful energy in the entire room. For at least that hour and a half performance, no one cared about how weird we are, and it was beautiful.

I left the performance Saturday thinking to myself about

## BuzzFeed, however addicting, is not actual news

By AISHWARYA RAJE

I had an interesting experience in the Brody Reading Room the other day. From the position of my seat, I was able to see the laptop screens of about seven other people (and I know I'm not the only one who spies). Out of the seven, four of them had their internet browser open to BuzzFeed.com.

At first I didn't think there was anything wrong with that; we all need a quick study break to just roam the internet for a bit. Then thirty minutes went by, and all four people were still on BuzzFeed. At this point I just assumed they were organic chemistry students, absolutely dreading going back to their textbook. But when an hour eventually passed, and the same four people had BuzzFeed ever present on their computers, it became clear that rummaging through old BuzzFeed articles was no longer just a study break for these people. It was a genuine

source of entertainment.

Unfortunately, these four individuals represent only a small fraction of those who see BuzzFeed as a worthwhile place to spend time on the internet. The site is designed to attract young college students like myself into viewing an endless amount of GIFs, Vines, and photos of Jennifer Lawrence. I will admit, I occasionally visit the page when I am bored and feel like watching something entertaining. But spending more than fifteen minutes on BuzzFeed often makes me feel more bored than I did when I first visited the page.

It is unlikely that anyone over the age of 30 would know what BuzzFeed is, let alone have any interest in its content. And for a site aimed at students, the noticeable lack of journalistic originality that BuzzFeed presents is striking, as most articles are simply links to YouTube videos or other websites. There is nothing that forces me to think critically or form an

opinion, which is why it confuses me as to how people can spend so much time on the site.

BuzzFeed's slogan, "The Media Company for the Digital Age" implies a progressive, up to date media outlet for a generation defined by its fixation with the latest technology. However, the site proves to be an example of how the manner in which news and current events are presented is being watered down to accommodate a younger audience. The fact that BuzzFeed is so popular among college students suggests that young people would rather spend an hour looking at GIFs than an hour looking through BBC.com. We have become so used to reading listicles as a substitute for real journalism that anything else seems too long or too boring.

There is nothing wrong with a media outlet wanting to have more of an online presence; in fact, I encourage it. BuzzFeed, however, is unworthy of this encouragement, because it was

created solely for the internet, in order to share the most popular stories circulating around the web. A company for the "digital age" should not subject us to a plethora of inane articles that require little intellectual curiosity. I would like to think that my generation has an interest in reading about current events and issues that matter in the world, but BuzzFeed is slowly making us forget how to do that.

We must reevaluate how we spend our time online. When used correctly and responsibly, the internet can serve a very useful purpose. There are so many thought provoking things that the internet can expose us to, which is especially important for college students to remember. But while BuzzFeed can be fun to skim through, it should in no way be mistaken as an alternative to credible news and media outlets.

*Aishwarya Raje is a sophomore majoring in International Studies.*

## "Real" food is too broadly, subjectively, inaccurately defined

By ANDREW DORIS

A few weeks ago, the Opinions section ran an article calling for Hopkins students to embrace what it called "real" food, in celebration of President Daniels' recent agreement to commit 20% of Hopkins' food purchases towards such food by 2020. The article was written by a founding member of Real Food Hopkins, which defines "real" food as food which is "local/community-based, ecologically grown, humanely raised, and fair trade."

But not only are each of these defining characteristics vague and subjective, they have very little to do with one another. For example, just because something is local doesn't mean it's ecologically grown, humanely raised or fairly traded, and vice-versa. If "real food" is defined according to these four independent conditions, the supporters of "real" food must prove the desirability of each one individually. If they can only convince us on some of them, we oughtn't be made to pay extra for them all. Are each of these four conditions really worth the more expensive student meal plans that will inevitably result?

Let's start with "local/community-based." According to Real Food Hopkins, our food isn't "real" unless it was grown nearby to where we happen to be consuming it. I can't for the life of me understand why. As it relates to our lives, restricting our options to those foods grown in our immediate vicinity takes a whole plethora of delicious, nutritious, affordable, convenient options off the table,

without any well-explained environmental or social benefit.

I can buy a frozen pizza on the supermarket for \$4. It takes 15 seconds to put in my cart and three minutes to heat up in the microwave. I can go back to studying 10 minutes after I got hungry. It isn't local, though, because if it were, that national-chain convenience wouldn't be possible. But who does it harm? So to me, this "buy local" mindset represents a severe underappreciation for just how vastly the globalized market system improves our lives in all sorts of interconnected ways.

The next criteria for "real" food is "ecologically grown." The authors seem to be claiming that food treated with artificial or dangerous chemicals is unnatural and therefore not "real." In general, I'm all in favor of going green and limiting verifiable externalities, but I doubt consumer decision making is the most effective vehicle for restricting these externalities, any more than choosing to ride a bike is a long term solution for carbon emissions. Besides, what counts as sufficiently ecological or natural growing methods is up for debate. Are GMO's okay? Perhaps the author feels the current legal standards surrounding agricultural practices are too lax, but who gets to determine the new standards? Are Hopkins students to foot the bill for whatever decisions that person makes?

The next criterion is "humanely raised." This is even more subjective yet. The author says, "We may have to eat lower on the food chain

more frequently, so that when we do consume animal or fish products, we can afford the more expensive and more limited options from sources that protect the welfare of animals." But frankly, I am thoroughly unconcerned by the welfare of animals. I don't believe animals have many rights at all and have no problem killing them and eating them. If you disagree, that's okay — you're free to act on that belief in your personal life. But I shouldn't be subsidizing that expansive view of animal rights. If you think a certain food company keeps their animals in cages that are too small, for instance, you are free to forgo the purchase of that company's products. You're also free to select other options at Char-Mar or Levering or Nolans or the FFC and to encourage others to do the same. But asking the university as a whole to spend more (and thus, to inevitably charge its students more) punishes the majority for the values of a relatively small minority.

Finally, we come to "fair trade." Like "humane," the word "fair" doesn't mean much without further specification. The author writes "We may have to spend a penny more per pound of tomatoes to ensure we aren't supporting modern-day slavery conditions in Immokalee, FL," but this is excessive hyperbole. The idea that there is still anything resembling slavery in Florida — and that buying local vegetables will get rid of it — is almost as ridiculous as framing the cost of this initiative in terms of pennies. I suspect Hopkins students who took this analysis at its word will

be in for an unpleasant surprise when they see the new rates for food plans in upcoming years.

The author demands that "the welfare of workers ... would be protected." But if I want to aid in the welfare of anybody, I can donate to them directly — I needn't change my diet to do that. The author never explains why the workers in the food industry are in particular need of protection, nor why consumers picking at the grocery store are in a good position to offer it to them.

Ultimately, the Real Food argument bites off more than it can chew. Their case consists of a vague clumping of lofty liberal ideals that are only loosely related and only partially correct. Our food consumption decisions are so important, they claim, that they will singlehandedly determine the future of medicine, clean water, human health, labor rights, animal rights, economic prosperity, wealth disparities, international stability and indeed the entire future of the planet. That's an awful lot to demonstrate in one article, so it's no wonder they failed to do so.

Of course, they admit it's not just Hopkins that needs to change — a true difference can be made, they excitedly point out, just as soon as every college in the country signs their commitment to more expensive, less diverse, less convenient food. With 18 universities down, there's only about 2,700 four-year colleges left to go. I wish them the best of luck.

*Andrew Doris is a junior political science major from West Chester, PA.*

**Hopkins is ... that cute girl you met who also happens to do the best damn Yoda impersonation you've ever heard.**

what it means to have school spirit at Hopkins. It is certainly not what you see on your newsfeed every weekend: stadiums filled with Michigan yellow or Syracuse orange.

Having pride in Hopkins is something that you don't hear people mention aloud. To do so would somehow violate the concept of Hopkins pride. That's why perhaps you really only understand what this school is about once you're here. You have to meet your fellow weirdos before you really get a grasp on what makes this place unique.

Hopkins is those kids who went streaking through the library last year, or that cute girl you met who also happens to do the best damn Yoda impersonation you've ever heard. Hopkins is a strange place, and I guess that makes our version of school spirit a strange one. But at the end of the day, I am glad I decided not to go to State U.

Go Jays!

*James Cameron is a sophomore biology major from Boston, MA. He is a Staff Writer for the News-Letter Opinions section.*

# JIMI HENDRIX'S CROSSTOWN TRAFFIC IS A GREAT SONG.



## EXCEPT TO CROSS THE STREET BY.

Hey, you. Yeah, you. We're trying to get through to you. It's probably difficult to hear through those earbuds, but did you know that recent studies have found the number of headphone-wearing pedestrians killed or injured by moving vehicles has tripled in the U.S. since 2004? That's one musical trend you don't want to follow. Traffic can be unpredictable, so protect yourself by keeping your eyes and ears open.

That's sound advice.



# THE B SECTION

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News-Letter

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NOVEMBER 21, 2013



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## Science & Technology

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Men's XC is NCAA regional champ — B12

# YOUR WEEKEND Nov. 21-24

## HopMUN member visits Philly

By **JESSE CHEN**  
Your Weekend Columnist

Last Thursday I rolled out of bed and sprinted down to Barnes and Noble with the rest of my suite. We are members of HopMUN, the traveling Model United Nations team, and last weekend we ran around Philadelphia in business attire and name tags representing Hopkins at the MUN conference hosted by the University of Pennsylvania, UPMUNC.

For four days, we took on the identities and policies of various countries and characters while in committee, arguing over everything from how best to deal with African militant factions to what would happen if Kashmir seceded from India. The first night we settled into our hotel, grabbed a quick dinner, then went to Opening Ceremonies, where we heard the keynote speaker, an adjunct professor at SAIS. We split up and headed to our respective committees where I spent a few hours with my partner arguing with other delegations over what topic we should discuss first. After committee ended, the

Hopkins delegation headed back to the hotel and settled into the biggest hotel room we had rented to eat pizza and hang out.

On Saturday, we woke early for yet another session, where my committee hammered out more details and argued over the importance of disarmament of factions versus education efforts. With other delegates from Princeton University, we headed to Chinatown for a delicious lunch of noodles and bubble tea before returning to the afternoon committee session.

After committee ended, we headed back to the hotel then headed out for a dinner of famous Philadelphia cheesesteaks! Certain members of our delegation had been clamoring to try some genuine Philly cheesesteaks for the entire trip, and we were excited to finally eat some...that is, until someone realized that the closest cheesesteaks were 20 minutes away. So we went to Chinatown and picked up some take out to eat before the infamous DelegateFest. Hosted in Roxxy, a Philly nightclub, DelegateFest was the biggest social event of the

weekend — a chance for delegates to take all of the awkward pick up lines about caucuses and gavels from the bright lights and business attire of committee to the hazy lighting and sweaty dance floor of the club. Several hours and countless scarring encounters with dubiously sober couples later, we headed back to the hotel to hang out in the room and recap.

Sunday morning I slept through my alarm, sprinting into committee without showering and just in time before we closed the doors and entered voting procedure for the resolutions we had been working on. After speedy votes on each resolution, we opened up the doors again and began fooling around, awarding superlatives like Best Dressed A Military Faction (that went to the stern-faced but polished delegates from West Point). Committee ended and we headed back to the hotel to pack up and check out. After Closing Ceremonies, we headed back to Hopkins. After several hours on the road, I arrived home, exhausted but already excited for UPMUNC 2014.



COURTESY OF HILLSONGNYC.COM

The Hillsong Church of New York City is located in Union Square between 15th and 16th Street.

## Adoremus member experiences NYC

By **KEVIN WELLS**  
Your Weekend Columnist

This weekend I visited New York City for the first time with Adoremus, my a cappella group. I feel like a majority of you reading this have been to New York before; in fact, I've met a ton of international students who have travelled around America more than I have.

We began our adventure by heading over to Penn Station, where we made the four-block trek to the Bolt Bus Station. For those of you who haven't travelled by Bolt Bus before, it can be a really cheap option for travelling if you plan accordingly; a quick search showed me that a trip to New York one month from today will only cost about \$16. We all managed round-trip tickets for just \$20, a very reasonable price for a four-hour trip.

Anyway, fast-forward four hours and we're in New York City. It was my first time in the city and I didn't realize how lush everything was. I don't know how to articulate it, but I didn't anticipate so many trees. Having only been to Boston and Philadelphia, I had a very superficial understanding of what metro-

politan life was like, but it was pretty overwhelming, to say the least. The Empire State Building, Times Square, Central Park, police cars labelled "NYPD" and rickshaws were things that I'd seen in movies and shows, but I was finally able to witness them firsthand.

For most of you who have been to New York, I assume nothing I'm saying seems new. But one of our less touristy goals in New York was to go karaokeing. We got to practice most of our upcoming songs through karaokeing and found an incredible deal (\$6/hour, as opposed to the \$40+ typical of Baltimore). I may be misinformed about Baltimore prices, but it was shocking how much cheaper the karaoke was in New York. The karaoke place (Duet Karaoke in Midtown) also sports a bar that opens after 8 p.m., but they are very strict about the drinking age, so plan accordingly.

We also decided to visit the Hillsong Church in New York, which was one of the underlying goals of our trip. The musicians all train with Hillsong and worship is done in a contemporary setting, almost concert-like. The pastor, Carl Lentz, has been renowned for his cha-

risma and ability to cater to young adults. While it is a church it is still very accommodating and offers services that can appeal to Christians and non-Christians alike. They also offered free apple cider and doughnuts, which was a nice addition. But like most other things, don't feel obligated to go if you feel uncomfortable. The experience varies greatly by person, as most concerts and speeches do, but for me being able to visit it was a great experience.

Sadly, our time in New York was short, but for the price, it was worth it and I urge you to take a trip there if you haven't before. I'm obviously speaking on little experience and this was more of me discussing my own experience in the city for the first time, but it really was a rewarding trip. We even ran into the guys who run Wong Fu Productions, a popular channel on YouTube. I didn't realize how easy it was to find celebrities in New York, but if that's your thing go celebrity-hunting. I'm not sure how to make that sound less creepy, but it is pretty ridiculous how much this city had to offer and I implore you to explore; it'll be a weekend well-spent.



COURTESY OF JESSE CHEN

Two members of HopMUN, sophomores Audrey Moss and Jesse Chen, represented delegates of Syria.

## Noteworthy Events



BALTIMORE.CITYBIZLIST.COM

Sante features exquisite cuisine by local Baltimore restaurants every year.

### Sante: Spoil Your Palate

6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 21

M&T Bank Stadium

Sante is an exciting, annual culinary event that features signature dishes from over 40 local chefs. This year at Sante, chefs will vie to win the "People's Choice" award, selected by guests, and the "Best of Sante" awards, selected by a panel of judges. The executive chef of Richardson Farms will also attempt to set a record for the world's longest cheesecake at 50 yards long. Sante, attended by more than 700 guests, raises funds for the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland's patient emergency assistance program, providing essentials such as food, housing costs, utilities, medication and transportation to dialysis.

### Zoo Zoom

8:30 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24

The Maryland Zoo

Run through beautiful Druid Hill Park and the wild paths of the Maryland Zoo with fellow Baltimoreans for this annual fundraising event. For running aficionados, the race is 8K long, with a tamer one-mile run available at 9:30 a.m. The 8K race will award the top three finishers for each gender as well as per age group. Registrations to either races include all day admission to the zoo as well as post-race refreshments by Corner Bakery Cafe. All proceeds from the event go to supporting operations, animal care, conservation initiatives and education programs at The Maryland Zoo.



MIDDLETONGREATOUTDOORS.COM

Running participants brave the cold during a previous Zoo Zoom.



U2SOUL VIA FLICKR

Kanye West performs (left); A Christmas Carol at Ford's Theatre (right).

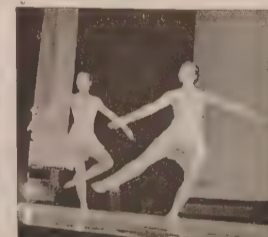


FORD'S THEATRE VIA FLICKR



ROLLINGOUT.COM

Comedian D. L. Hughley (left); JHU Classical Ballet Company (right).



JHU BALLET VIA FLICKR

## Calendar

- 11/21** Kanye West (Verizon Center)  
A Christmas Carol (Ford's Theatre)
- 11/22** Elf: The Musical (The Lyric)  
D. L. Hughley (Baltimore Comedy Factory)
- 11/23** My Wife Got Married (John Astin Theatre)  
Throat Culture Winter Show (Arelano Theater)  
Keith Urban (Patriot Center)
- 11/24** JHU Ballet: Excerpts from The Nutcracker (Shriver Hall)

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## “Book of the Faiyum” exhibit housed at Walters

By ALLI GRECO  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore’s historic Mount Vernon neighborhood is currently home to a new exhibition entitled “Egypt’s Mysterious Book of the Faiyum.” This exhibition is worth experiencing because it is designed in such a way so as to tell a story and interact with visitors, as opposed to lining artifacts up like soldiers across the walls in a more static and predictable manner.

The story-like manner of the exhibition is appropriate, as it underscores the star of the show, the Book of the Faiyum, which consists of two rolls of ancient papyri that depict many religious aspects of the Faiyum region, including the crocodile god, Sobek.

At the beginning of the journey, just as in the beginning of any formal essay, the visitor is given background information in order to understanding the forthcoming artifacts. It is explained that the Nile valley was not the only fertile region of Egypt. In fact, to the west of this great river lies the Faiyum, whose centerpiece is Lake Moeris, another greatly fertile area of great agricultural significance to Egyptian farmers, even to this day.

Aside from the human inhabitants of the Faiyum, during the Greco-Roman period, namely the time between the late first century BCE and the second century CE that the exhibition zooms in on, the Faiyum was the natural habitat of scores of crocodiles. As an immensely vicious, yet highly powerful

and dominating creature, the ancient Egyptians both feared and worshipped the crocodile, which led to the eventual worship of Sobek.

Although the Romans, who ruled Egypt during this time in history, attempted to convert Egyptians to their pagan brand of religion, many Egyptians continued to worship Sobek, who is depicted in the Book of the Faiyum as participating in the sun’s legendary, daily transition between the mortal and underworlds.

Although Sobek and other crocodiles proliferate throughout the Book of the Faiyum, other deities and religious themes appear, many of which are explained before visitors actually arrive at the main room of the exhibition where the Book of the Faiyum is officially on display.

For instance, in order to understand the Book’s references to the god Horus, and how he relates to Sobek and crocodiles in general, it is important to observe an artifact on display called a cippus. A cippus was a type of stela made of stone, whose hieroglyphic inscriptions invoke magical spells protecting the worshipper from animal attacks, such as crocodile bites.

The cippus depicts Horus as a child, standing atop two crocodiles, grasping serpents, antelopes and lions in his fists. This symbolizes Horus’s mythological domination over animals of prey, and would have been used by Faiyum residents for protection. Similarly, small amulets on display explain that these same residents carried

SEE FAIYUM EXHIBIT, PAGE B5

## Mental Notes channel state school demeanor

Group member Jackie Choi reveals hidden talent mid-performance

By NICK UEBELE  
For The News-Letter

What do you get when you combine the JHU Mental Notes, a state school and a jam-packed Bloomberg Auditorium? Concisely put: hilarity.

On November 16, the Johns Hopkins University Mental Notes finished out a weekend of a cappella with what is arguably their best concert yet.

Upon entering Bloomberg Auditorium, students were presented with chalkboards artistically depicting the concert’s theme (“The Mental Notes go to State University”) via collegiate logos and a wonderfully mathematic analysis of the various types of beer pong throws.

As the only remaining seats on the stairs filled up shortly before the start of the show, the air in the auditorium was charged with energy and excitement for the night of entertainment ahead.

The group took the stage to thunderous applause

and launched into their rendition of Swift’s “I Knew You Were Trouble.” Her cheers reached a new level as sophomore Jackie Choi surprised the audience

group’s male members. Choi picked up beat boxing and used the dudes in our group as backup. She swore beat boxing was harder than doing it as a guy,” Choi exclaimed.

last year but didn’t really get good until I had time to practice over the summer. Not that I’m that great ... I still have a lot to learn.”

The Mental Notes’ first song was followed by the



COURTESY OF NICK UEBELE

The Mental Notes hilariously introduced their audience to the foreign habits of state school party animals.

by revealing a hidden microphone, which she then used to participate in a beat boxing breakdown in the midst of the song.

According to Choi, she practiced the skill a lot over the summer in response to challenges from

Due to the loss of the group’s main vocal percussionist, the responsibility to beat box the majority of the concert fell on Choi’s shoulders, and she pulled it off with aplomb. She, however, remains modest.

“I learned how to do it

appearance of the UMBC Mama’s Boys, who agreed to come sing as the guest group. The Mama’s Boys, although being short many members due to illness, delivered a solid performance filled with engaging rhythms and delicate falsettos, causing many in the audience to erupt into cheers.

Staying true to tradition, the Mental Notes also delivered a series of wonderfully written skits about their myriad adventures into the land of State University, a school well-known for hot men and

abundant partying. The skits followed the Mental Notes on their journey to compete in the International Championships of Collegiate A cappella (ICCA’s), only to realize that they had accidentally appeared for State University’s International Championship of Consuming Alcohol.

Other songs on the setlist featured freshmen Tucker Brownell, Pauline Cronin and Arjun Tambe, who all did a phenomenal job despite being new to the stage. Tambe’s rendition of Ed Sheeran’s “Give Me Love” showed many in the audience that in addition to being rowdy and comical, the Mental Notes could also be exceptionally musical.

Following a hilarious parody of Jay Z’s and Justin Timberlake’s song “Holy Grail” by seniors Lucie Fink and Ellie Kaplan (entitled “Horny Males”) about their time at Pi Kappa Alpha’s “Piketoberfest,” sophomore Jackie Choi put aside the percussion microphone and took her place in front of the group.

With a performance that can only be described as breathtaking and beautifully overwhelming, Choi demonstrated to everyone present the true musical capabilities of the group as she led the Mental Notes’ performance of “Wings” by Little Mix. The addition of harmonies by Cronin and Kaplan during the choruses added even more power and energy to Choi’s solo and drove the audience to their feet as the Mental Notes took a bow to signal the end of their set.

Cheers for an encore erupted almost instantly as the group headed offstage, prompting the Mental Notes to return for one more song, for which they invited all of the alumni present up onto the stage.

The sheer musicality demonstrated by the old members and “newbies” alike signals much more to come from the Mental Notes. The profound level of talent demonstrated by this comedy a cappella group combined perfectly with its “painfully sexy” sense of humor to create what was undoubtedly their best concert yet.

## The Vocal Chords present an impressive set at “A Year in Review”

By AUBREY ALMANZA  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Vocal Chords are back and better than ever. Hopkins’s well-known coed a cappella group performed the night of Nov. 15 in Bloomberg Auditorium.

Upon entering the theater, it was clear that the event’s publicity successfully cast a wide net and left an impression, for attendees not only filled each of the auditorium’s seats, but quickly exceeded maximum capacity. Students could be seen cramped onto the stair aisles, seated uncomfortably between a friend’s legs, vying for the minimal space. Despite their inevitable lower back pain (and clear disregard for fire safety), all guests were primarily relieved to have a place in the Vocal Chords’ crowd.

The event, themed “A Year in Review,” presented

ed a backdrop laden with the most popular of modern app icons. The likes of Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter covered the blackboard and provided a telling hint as to what the “A Year in Review” skits had in store.

Sophomore Lindsay Portelli opened the show with new arrangement of Katy Perry’s recent hit, “Roar.” Midway into her performance, senior Jon Konel joined her, fusing Sara Bareilles’ “Brave” in an upbeat duo. Konel fed off Portelli’s radiant energy, and their chemistry strengthened as the song progressed. Konel, a first time soloist, performed with the confidence of a seasoned veteran.

Junior Brad Foulke took the stage next, covering Styx’s “Renegade” and impressing with his wide range, capable of hitting knocking every high note

out of the park.

Audience members were in for a particular treat when OwlCappella, visiting from Temple University, made its way to the floor. In contrast to the Vocal Chords’ sharp red and black formal attire, the eccentric, coed group donned various casual styles. However, their performances were far from everyday.



COURTESY OF AUBREY ALMANZA

Jon Konel joined Lindsay Portelli in a blended arrangement of “Roar” and “Brave.”

Group Treasurer Lisa Diehl began the set with Lorde’s “Royals,” which complimented her voice impeccably. The stage is undoubtedly Diehl’s natural habitat, and her performance proved that OwlCappella is a force to be reckoned with.

The highlight of their set came when freshman Scotlyn Brewer, a very petite redhead, took her place before the mic.

No one could have predicted the absolutely booming voice that stemmed from such a tiny body. Brewer performed JoJo’s “Leave.” Her huge projection and spot-on pitch sent chills throughout the room and brought the crowd to roaring applause.

The group’s final song, another throwback, was Panic! at the Disco’s “I Write Sins not Tragedies.” All songs can be found on their recently dropped EP, “Owl or Nothing,” available on iTunes now.

The Vocal Chords then switched gears, acting out the various high-profile events and trends that occurred this past year. The group described the newest iPhone release and poked fun at the ever useless Siri function, the reelection of Obama and the drop of the Youtube

sensation, “What Does the Fox Say?” They highlighted relevant pop culture, reenacting Miley Cyrus twerking with a foam finger and narrating via hashtags.

Despite all of the hilarity, the show continued. Foulke returned to the limelight to duet with junior Taylor Wiseman. The pair spiced up their rendition of Gloria’s “Good Night” by inviting two lucky audience members to the floor for a public serenade. Both singers ended the song with an innocent kiss.

Sophomore Nick Uebele sang next, performing “Demons” by Imagine Dragons. Like Konel, audience members would not have known this solo was his first. Uebele’s audible fanbase cheered him on from start to finish and looks

SEE VOCAL CHORDS, PAGE B4



COURTESY OF AUBREY ALMANZA

Nick Uebele performed an impressive rendition of “Demons” by Imagine Dragons.

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## White House Down produces well-choreographed action sequences

There's nothing saying that every movie has to be particularly intelligent; while intricate stories, good acting, and other such features are typically considered essential to a good movie, they are by no means required; films like *Rocky* or the original *Star Wars* are certainly indicative of that much. Lack of intelligence only hurts a film if the movie is actively trying to be intelligent; such is unfortunately the case with James Vanderbilt's recent action blockbuster, *White House Down*.

*White House Down*, which hit theaters just this past summer, seems on the surface to be a harmless action flick. Forced to share its limelight with *Olympus Has Fallen*, a film released at almost the exact same time which had a very similar premise, style, and atmosphere, the two films flew (comparatively) under the public radar, likely due to their similarities canceling out the hype for the other, and thus halving their potential success.

Both films have a cast comprised of seasoned actors, share similar settings, follow much the same nar-

rative structure, and look largely identical in most ways that matter. If they are so similar, why, then, is *White House Down* more worthy of criticism? The answer lies solely with its presentation.

The film opens on John Cale, played by Channing Tatum (*Dear John*, *G.I. Joe: Rise of the Cobra*), a police officer in the Capitol who hopes to join the secret service. Politically, D.C. is in a state of unrest, because President Sawyer (Jamie Foxx) has been pushing for a peace treaty that would essentially end all foreign involvement in the Middle East. However, this agenda lights the less-than-metaphorical fires of conflict, inspiring a group of radicals to bomb portions of the White House, take civilians hostage, and attempt to force Sawyer to authorize a nuclear strike on Iran. As a result, it falls to Cale to fight off the terrorists, rescue his kidnapped daughter, save the President, and stop nuclear war.

On the surface, *White House Down* seems like it should be a perfectly fine action film. It has a threatening, if cheesy premise, guns, hostages, explosions, and loose-cannon cops



Jamie Foxx and Channing Tatum are charged with saving the White House in the action-packed thriller. COURTESY OF FANSSHARE.COM

fighting off legions of incompetent terrorist fodder. And, admittedly, if the film succeeds in one area, it is in its action sequences. Most of the fights in the movie are well choreographed, and each one feels suitably suspenseful. While the stakes rarely feel high (after all, no one honestly ex-

pects the protagonist to be taken down by unnamed terrorist number 5, no matter how hard the film tries to fool you), its easy to get engrossed by the sheer over-the-top nature of the fighting.

It's fast paced, it's tense, and it does its job well. Granted, the action scenes do suffer a bit from poor cinematography: the camera has a tendency to hold itself a little too close to the characters, maybe in an attempt to make the scenes feel more personal; however, this has the side effect of making the action difficult to make out. This isn't helped by the "shaky camera" effect that the director makes liberal use of throughout the film; while not a big problem, I do wish the action scenes were filmed better, so as to do them proper justice.

However, once we move past the action scenes, which carry themselves solely on adrenaline, the cracks in *White House Down* really begin to show, suffering from most of the issues that typically plague action films. The acting, for instance, as may be predicted, is not particularly well done; line readings are flat, and characters rarely ever properly emote; while this is typically done in order to make the characters seem stronger, it has the side effect of making them seem bored, as well. While not entirely the fault of the actors (it is apparent that they were given very little to work with, character-wise), they certainly don't bring anything new to the table.

As it stands, Cale is the stereotypical action movie

hero; Sawyer is the stereotypical unpopular leader with a heart of gold. The best performance is given by James Woods, who plays one of the leading terrorists in the film. While he may play a stereotypical revenge-quest villain, it's clear that he's having a lot of fun with the role, and acts so hilariously over the top that it's impossible to not laugh at times. That doesn't make the acting good, or the character any less stereotypical, but it does make him a bit more fun to watch. That said, it is by-and-large difficult to care about any of the characters in this film; and, as

the film is, at its core, a hostage-rescue film, caring at least a bit about the characters should be somewhat of a priority.

But then, realism and connecting emotionally with characters has always been a common problem with action movies. Even among iconic films in the genre like *Rambo* or *Die Hard*, the characters and plot have always been secondary to the fight scenes: gunfights, fistfights, explosions fueled solely by the power of testosterone, these are the reasons people want to see action films. Characters are typically just a reason to move from one action scene to the next, and nothing more. So who cares if the characters and plot are lacking?

Well, here's the issue: this film clearly wants the plot and characters to matter. Action films have proven, time and again, that they are capable of deep storytelling and good characterization. For every *Die Hard*, for instance, there's a *Terminator 2*, breaking the action-movie mold. The film clearly wants to be that deep action film. It dedicates a lot of time to setting up who our characters are, and why we should care about them.

The film tries to go into detail about Cale and his relationship with his daughter; it tries to build emotional conflict in the president about whether or not he's even in the right; each of the terrorists have their own quirks and backstories, and some of their motivations are surprisingly strong.

Even more surprising is the thematic content of the film; the movie is one giant action blowout, ripe with explosions, death, firefights, explosions, yet the whole movie is so heavily rooted in promoting peace; the whole conflict of the film arises over whether or not the president should try to end war

in the Middle East; despite this, both the president and Cale willingly and actively engage in what is essentially all-out war, seemingly defeating the purpose that they're fighting for. How can one honestly advocate peace in a film whose sole purpose is to have the protagonist cause explosion after explosion?

This contradiction should, theoretically, open the doors for all sorts of interesting storytelling possibilities, addressing not just how and why they fight, but the sort of things that are worth fighting for, among any number of other interesting questions.

Unfortunately, the movie is too clever, and fails to realize just how clever it really is. None of these issues are ever touched upon; backstories come off as nothing but contrivances meant to force characters into battle position.

Characters exist solely to bounce from one action scene to the next. And despite so many intricate thematic possibilities, the film refuses to so much as touch any of them; instead, Vanderbilt squanders the opportunity in order to shoehorn in his own political agenda through a less-than-subtle mouthpiece character.

The end result is a film that brings nothing new to the table.

Its plot is stereotypical, its characters are stereotypical, its action, while good, is stereotypical, and any attempt to break new ground is squandered away and wasted on poorly-conveyed political preaching that, unfortunately, won't do much to convince or invest audiences. Somewhere amid all this garbage is a good film, and it makes me sad that I have to dig to try and find it.

Overall Rating: 2/5

## Williams' Book Thief score triumphs

By CONNOR HAMMONDS  
For The News-Letter

To say that composer John Williams is a seasoned professional would be a great understatement. After starting to compose music for TV in the 1950s, Williams began to establish himself as a titan in the world of film music, working on well-known films like *The Cowboys* and *Jaws*. Today, he is known throughout the world for his infamous themes to *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *Harry Potter*, and countless others.

At age 81, Williams is still going strong and on Tuesday released his most recent score to accompany the new film, *The Book Thief*. Set in Nazi Germany during World War II, *The Book Thief* tells the story of a young girl who uses the world of books as an escape. His first project since academy award-nominated *Lincoln* of last year, the composer took a very intimate approach to this score, using a smaller orchestra than usual as well as a plethora of solo instruments to tell the story effectively.

The piano is unquestionably the star of this score. With solos that both open and close the soundtrack and appear on the majority of the tracks, the piano is used as an elegant voice for both the main theme as well as other leitmotifs. On tracks such as "One Small Fact" and "Isa's Library", a delicate theme appears that Williams has said symbolizes the fascination that Liesel (the film's young protagonist) has for books.

Other instruments, like the oboe and clarinet, play significant solo roles that call to mind Williams' orchestrations on *Lincoln*. His generous writing for the harp, however, is something that is new and a step away from what is 'usual' in his scores. While these three instruments lend to the score's intimate feel, the emotional power lies in the sweeping statements of the main theme in the string section. While the theme is not Williams' most original (strongly calling to mind his work on *Angela's Ashes*), it is a beautiful one that ties the score together impressively.

The composer, in a recent interview, saw *The Book Thief's* music as "taking us out of reality... to areas where we think about better things than throwing bombs at each other." His efforts on this score are doubtlessly effective — any listener is sure to appreciate every quiet melody in this hope-filled masterpiece.



While the film has a lot of action, it is neither original nor convincing, and leaves audiences disappointed. COURTESY OF FANSSHARE.COM

## The Vocal Chords draw a full house

VOCAL CHORDS, FROM B3 forward to his upcoming covers.

The soothing melody of Ingrid Michaelson's "Incredible Love" was heard next, as sophomore Rachel Xian calmed the riled up crowd. Applause erupted as Xian picked up steam, repeating "don't give it back" to demonstrate her vocal power in a way Ingrid Michaelson does not.

Following Megha Sharma's frequently seen powerhouse performance, the newest members of the group were introduced. Freshman Ha Joo Lee and Alexia Huggins made it through the selective audition process, and Huggins even performed her own solo!

Belting out the lyrics to Jessie J's "Mamma Knows Best" alongside Alison Simms, it was easy to see how Alicia Keys, Huggins's declared idol, has influenced her. Members of the audience began

bowing down to the ladies with booming vocals following the arrangement.

Crowd favorite Rudy Fernandez performed John Legend's "This Time." The moving piece silenced the audience, who clung tightly to Fernandez' touching selection.

To end the show (or so the crowd thought), Kaleigh Choi sang the radio hit "Clarity" by Zedd. Choi's excellent display would have been enough to leave the crowd satisfied, but an added bonus came in the form of Greco Song's encore to "The Walk." Alumni were invited to join in the fun, before the musical night came to an end.

The November 15 set was easily seen as The Vocal Chords' best yet. The Hopkins community eagerly anticipates their upcoming performances, and expects their fan base to continue to grow.

pects the protagonist to be taken down by unnamed terrorist number 5, no matter how hard the film tries to fool you), its easy to get engrossed by the sheer over-the-top nature of the fighting.

It's fast paced, it's tense, and it does its job well. Granted, the action scenes do suffer a bit from poor cinematography: the camera has a tendency to hold itself a little too close to the characters, maybe in an attempt to make the scenes feel more personal; however, this has the side effect of making the action difficult to make out. This isn't helped by the "shaky camera" effect that the director makes liberal use of throughout the film; while not a big problem, I do wish the action scenes were filmed better, so as to do them proper justice.

However, once we move past the action scenes, which carry themselves solely on adrenaline, the cracks in *White House Down* really begin to show, suffering from most of the issues that typically plague action films. The acting, for instance, as may be predicted, is not particularly well done; line readings are flat, and characters rarely ever properly emote; while this is typically done in order to make the characters seem stronger, it has the side effect of making them seem bored, as well. While not entirely the fault of the actors (it is apparent that they were given very little to work with, character-wise), they certainly don't bring anything new to the table.

As it stands, Cale is the stereotypical action movie



The Vocal Chords hosted Trinity's OwlCappella at their latest show. COURTESY OF AUBREY ALMANZA

## Errata: Nov. 14

In the Nov. 14 edition of *The News-Letter*, in the article titled "Hopkins's culture show assembles diverse performers," there were several mistakes: the song that Ketzev sang is called "Bo'ee," Annie Davis was the second soloist, not Becky Marcus and Hugo Uvegi is one of the group's business managers.

*The News-Letter* regrets these errors.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Drama as reality in Revolutionary Road

By ALLI GRECO  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

In *Revolutionary Road*, Richard Yates explores the lives and secret desires of April and Frank Wheeler. Though both initially want to buy into the suburban experience along with their peers, they eventually realize that life holds more in store for them. The overall tapestry of their marriage is more or less intact, but over time, more and more threads are pulled loose so that it falls apart and lies in disarray. The production of *The Petrified Forest* that April takes part in symbolizes the dichotomy between positive hopes and a negative reality not only concerning Frank and April, but also their peers.

The disastrous performance of *The Petrified Forest* is the most crucial moment because it outlines the contrasting elements of positive appearances and negative realities that so pervade the lives of the novel's main characters. There are occasional glimmers of hope that the play might end up on the brighter side. For a while it seems that the play will really be a success. However, reality sets in, and everyone realizes that the director's well-meant words of wisdom were only for show. They know that the play will fail miserably, and although they will all do their best to act out their roles and recite their lines well, the play is a disaster waiting to happen. Come opening night, various technical mishaps and ill-prepared actors plague the entire production.

*The Petrified Forest* is relevant to the lives of April and Frank because their past hopes and dreams and current attempts to fit in with society are thwarted by even stronger internal desires for individuality and personal autonomy.

On the one hand, April had dreams of making it big on the stage. Likewise, it was predicted by Frank's neighbors that he would make a name for himself. He even received a lot of romantic attention from women. However, he ends up working a mundane, meaningless job at the Knox building marketing office supplies. Even though their past dreams do not entirely work out, they do try to make a happy home in suburban Connecticut. Much like the imperfect, obviously artificial set of

*The Petrified Forest*, April wants to arrange her house to make it look like a suburban home, to convince herself and Frank that they fit in with this lifestyle. Just as in the play, April and Frank are only putting up a front, but not a convincing one. Like the audience, the Campbells could have left the Wheelers' house that night, but only stay out of politeness. Frank and April feel the frustration with the negative reality of their lives, but adopt the same kinds of frozen smiles that April does at the curtain call.

Mrs. Givings's complete absorption of suburbia portrays her as a very false kind of character. Her heavy, everyday makeup resembles artificial stage makeup, as if she is trying to cover up her true appearance. Her clothes are always prim and proper, and her voice is always that of a shrill, fluttering type of a busybody neighbor. Although Mrs. Givings does her very best to maintain her flawless appearance, perpetually cheery attitude, and lovely home, the one dark spot of her life is John. When she is not showing houses to new families, she is having conferences with John's doctors at the Greenacres mental asylum. After such scarring incidents, she breaks down in tears. Mrs. Givings's perfect life that is perfectly acted out deteriorates like the production of *The Petrified Forest*. The plot of her life starts out on the rise, but she crumbles underneath the pressures of trying to maintain her suburban perfection while caring for an "insane" son.

As the novel progresses, it is increasingly apparent that John was hospitalized because he refuses to conform to the life his mother covets. When he arrives at the Wheelers' house for the first dinner party, his appearance is certainly unconventional and a little bit sloppy. He also asks Frank why he works at his boring job even though he hates it. John's question is so bold that it angers Frank, but Frank knows that John is speaking the truth. John is clearly disgusted with Frank's resignation to a mundane work life and even more horrified with the couple's average lifestyle.

In Richard Yates's novel, the idea of the world as a stage rings true. Little do Frank and April know that *The Petrified Forest* is an alarming metaphor for the course their married life that is to be cut short.

# Jersey Boys considered the complete musical package

By ELLEN BRAIT  
Editor-in-Chief

Rock 'n' Roll musical *Jersey Boys* opened at the Hippodrome Theatre to an almost full audience on Nov. 12. The crowd was primarily comprised of those who remember the great music of The Four Seasons from their childhood, and the air was alive with anticipation.

The opening number, "Ces Soirees-La (Oh, What a Night)," established the vibe for the rest of the night. While the band did a solid job covering almost every hit in The Four Seasons's repertoire, and the orchestra was spot on, the words were hard to hear throughout the song. This was a constant problem throughout the play, especially when Hayden Milanes, who played Frankie Valli, sang. Though he showcased an impressive range, he was sometimes drowned out by the backup singers and band. And really, no one can compete with the legendary voice of Valli's, so it's a tad unfair to expect the musical's songs to be up to their original glory.

That being said, the show did not disappoint. It was highly entertaining and humorous from start to finish. It was serious during some of the band's more troubling moments, but managed to be light hearted when appropriate, especially when the plot slowed down and focused on the banter between band members. The transitions from scene to scene were especially impressive with the addition and subtraction of props, which was seamless and smooth.

Although the set was seemingly simple, the cast made good use of the space and the use of pictures and graphics on a large screen made for an interesting aesthetic on stage. This was especially true when the cast sang "Big Girls Don't Cry" and a Lichtenstein-inspired comic adorned the screen, showing a man telling a woman on the telephone, "We have to break up..." to which her response was "Big girls don't cry" as she lay on her bed looking miserable. The songs throughout the pro-

duction were catchy and had the audience engaged, some even dancing along to every song, despite the occasional unbalance in volume.

All four members of The Four Seasons were well cast and gave the audience different aspects of their character to define them by. As the lead, Milanes wowed the audience with his ability to jump between completely different scenes. He

maintained mostly in the background throughout. But surprisingly enough, his turned out to be one of the most humorous characters throughout the production. With his bland personality, deep bass vocals, and dull delivery of his lines, there was something undeniably funny about his character and his performance. His catch phrase of "I'm going to go start my own group" was easily brushed off by

anything right and selfishly thinks only of himself. He was also tweeting from the Hippodrome's Twitter handle, @HippodromeBway, for the day, allowing followers to see what was going on behind the scenes and to interact with him before the show.

Lastly, Jason Kappus who played songwriter Bob Gaudio, did a great job of portraying the one member of the group who did not have a strong connection to the old Jersey neighborhood. He was the youngest of the group and it was highly entertaining to watch as the other three corrupted him throughout the production, especially when the group took Gaudio to be with his first girl, a prostitute. "I gotta be romanced a little before I take my clothes off," Gaudio told the other members of The Four Seasons. The scene was hilarious and with the addition of "December, 1963 (Oh, What a Night)" it was a crowd favorite.

Although the entire play was engaging and well staged, one scene in particular was extremely well done. It hosted The Four Seasons, played by Milanes, Kappus, Dromard, and Andrus, facing away from the audience singing. The back wall of the stage was adorned with flashing lights to give the allusion of an audience alive with excitement, cameras flashing. And while the bright, flashing lights lit up the real audience for a moment, and potentially caused some retina damage, the aesthetic was amazingly designed and great to witness.

If you're looking for a musical that has it all: great show tunes, lots of laughs and even some heart wrenching moments, then *Jersey Boys* is for you. The story of four boys making it against all odds is a heartwarming one. But keep in mind, although the play does almost everything right, if you really want top-notch singing with not a single mistake in sight, you might want to catch a bus to New York City or Chicago and try seeing it there instead.



COURTESY OF CECIL BUFFINGTON.COM

Among its many attributes, *Jersey Boys* consists of talented, experienced cast members.

bounced from scenes of great despair to ones with uplifting music with surprising grace, and left little to be desired. When Valli suffered numerous losses, first with the end of his marriage, then with the end of

the other three members of the band but was endlessly hilarious to the audience.

Nicolas Dromard, who played Tommy DeVito, was the narrator of the play in the beginning, but eventually the audience saw past



COURTESY OF CECIL BUFFINGTON.COM

From Broadway to Baltimore, *Jersey Boys* brings down the house for exuberant audiences.

his relationship, and finally with the death of his daughter, Milanes did an amazing job of evoking emotion and taking the musical to a more serious place.

Brandon Andrus, who played Nick Massi, had a more subdued role and re-

his humor and discovered that, like in most stories, there is one character that the audience as a whole dislikes, and in this production, he was it. Dromard did a wonderful job of portraying the member of the group who can't do

# Walters Art Museum ancient Egypt exhibition cleverly executed

**FAIYUM EXHIBIT, FROM B3** around small figurines of Sobek and other related deities in their pockets or wore them as rings or necklaces in order to maintain constant worship or protection from them.

Although the artifacts themselves are fascinating, the most engaging aspects of the exhibition are those that, well, engage. Once again breaking with the monotony that many museum exhibitions fall victim to, "The Book of the Faiyum" harnesses modern technology to make the ancient artwork and papyri more potent.

Take, for instance, the interactive touch screens, whereon patrons can practice writing hieroglyphs that show up in the Book of the Faiyum, or the station where they can sample the aromas of specific herbs and spices

commonly used in ancient Egyptian rituals. The really cool part is the iPad-like screens that allow people to flip past and magnify certain key pages of the Book of the Faiyum that might be difficult to observe with the naked eye. This screen is set up directly across the way from another interactive station where people could read the papyrus exactly how the ancients did: sitting down with the roll in their lap, only able to read a lap's length of text at a time. The contrast between a modern reading technique that many take for granted today and a labor intensive, but rewarding ancient method of reading yields a greater appreciation for the ancients and how immensely they treasured the practices of producing exquisite text and then

reading and internalizing it.

In the middle of this room laying on its pedestal in the middle of a large room is the Book of the Faiyum itself, two rolls of papyrus that tell the story of Sobek and his fellow deities in the midst of treasured Faiyum legends, peppered with hi-

eroglyphic captions that further explain in red and black ink the detailed im-

agery that so permeates the papyri. In fact, detailed is an understatement of the level of intricacy in the images. Each crocodile is not just what we modern people might think of a stick figure drawing. The reptile's skin is scored

with tiny hash marks, while the tail is delicately textured with ridges and scales to give the creature a three-dimensional look. On a similar note, a goddess's headdress and regalia is ornately decorated with patterns and swirls to give the feeling of real-life fabric and jewelry. The level of artistry, time, and effort on the artist's part indicates the amount of dedication the people of the Faiyum had for their religion. Having some familiarity with the geography and ritualistic context of the Faiyum, the observer can certainly better appreciate the papyri.

Following along the path of the exhibition, the visitor comes to the grand finale, or the conclusion, an explanation of how the ancients would have worshipped the Book.

From the aegis, or collar, that surrounded a statue of Sobek in a temple, to the rattles and musical instruments that were used in daily, religious observance, the artifacts in this room provide the perfect setting in which to make any final conclusions and opinions about the exhibition before sojourning to the rest of the museum.

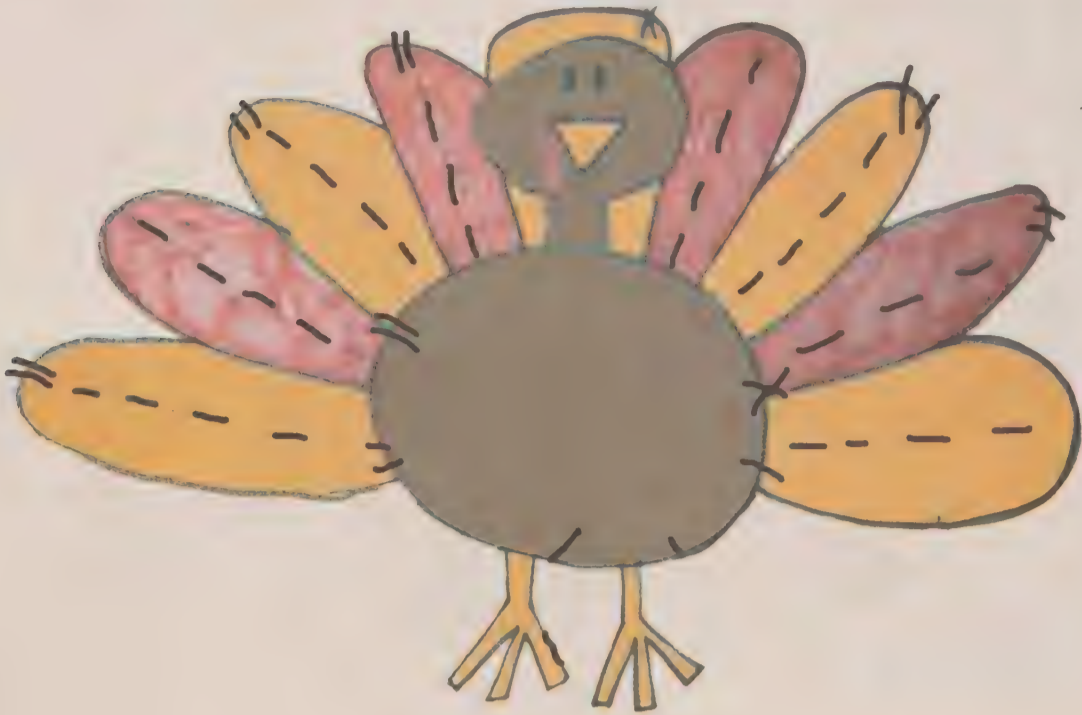
Experiencing "Egypt's Mysterious Book of the Faiyum" is a truly rewarding experience, and is a new twist on other Egyptian exhibitions that some people might have grown accustomed to. Hurry, though. This event is happening through Jan. 5, 2014, after which it will be installed at the Roemer-und Pelizaeus-Museum and the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museum in Mannheim, Germany.



COURTESY OF MSTECKER.COM

Sobek is a major theme in the exhibition.

# CARTOONS, ETC.



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

Day Dreaming

By Seol



Blue Jay Chronicles

By Sachi



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Progress made in the field of neuroprosthetics

By **JOEL PALLY**  
Staff Writer

For a soldier wounded in combat or civilian hurt in a car crash, pain does not end in the emergency room. For many amputees the physical hardship has only just begun. An amputation is immune to time and rehabilitation; it results not only in a physical loss but also in the loss of the victim's ability to carry

out normal life as he or she once knew it. Most will go on to receive prosthetics of some sort, but as inanimate limbs, a prosthetic is inherently limited in its potential to restore varied function.

However, the field of robotics and neuroprosthetics is rapidly dawning on a new era of technological innovation in the field of robotic limbs, independently and artificially-

powered limbs capable of interacting with our nervous system to produce coordinated movement. In a recent article published in *Science Translational Medicine* leaders in the area discussed where the field is now and the challenges that remain to move forward, especially for robotic leg development.

Modern robotic technology is superseding traditional prosthetics as

an option for paraplegic and amputated patients. Traditional devices operate on a few simple principles, primarily Newton's third law: for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. While prosthetics cannot generate their own energy, they afford our muscles a source of counterforce by providing resistance. Prosthetic feet are usually modified versions of springs that push back up when we generate downward momentum by putting our weight on the ground. Prosthetic knees are usually designed as rotational dampeners. When our thigh exerts torque on the dampener, the resistance it provides allows us to propel forward.

While this prosthetic model is certainly useful for an amputee, it comes with serious drawbacks. Unlike the actual musculoskeletal system prosthetics cannot adapt to their environment. Most are made to function optimally when walking on flat surfaces and thus are ill-suited for other types of terrain such as stairs and uneven surfaces. Since the user must "swing" their

SEE PROSTHETICS, PAGE B8



OREGONSTATE.EDU

Frozen in the middle of the act may be the ultimate coitus interruptus.

## Insects fossilized in the middle of having sex

By **ELIZABETH LIU**  
Staff Writer

About 165 million years ago a pair of frog hoppers' mating ritual was rudely interrupted by a volcanic eruption. Fortunately the wind blew these two love bugs into a lake where time and the weight of sediment were able to preserve their passionate moment.

Researchers from the Capital Normal University of China have recently unearthed this fossil from the Jurassic period, making it the oldest fossil of mating insects found. It predates the previously oldest known fossil of copulating insects, two tiny flies caught in amber, by at least 30 million years. Fossils that capture behavior, like prehistoric organisms mating, are incredibly rare, as behavior is not easy to preserve. Most of the 33 fossils found of copulating insects have been preserved in amber

and not sediment, making this newly discovered fossil tremendously unique. Since the collection of fossilized insects caught in the act is so sparse, not much is known about how or why the mating rituals of bugs evolved.

This new discovery helps expand the little knowledge we have of insect sex. The fossil contains a previously undiscovered species of frog hoppers which the scientists have whimsically named *Anthoscytina perpetua*. *Anthoscytina* refers to the name of the genus while *perpetua*, derived from the Latin word *perpet*, translates to "eternal love"—a rather fitting name for the species.

Unlike other previously discovered fossils of insect fornication preserved in amber there is no gap in between and around these sedimented fossils. This allows the researchers to

SEE INSECTS, PAGE B8



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Traditional prosthetics rely on reacting forces while neuroprosthetics aim to relink the neuromuscular system.

## Bioethics Corner: 'Despicable' Gru talks morals

By **SAAD ANJUM**  
Staff Writer

Universal Pictures brings back Gru (Steve Carell) and his enjoyable minions in the animated summer sequel to the hit

movie *Despicable Me*. An enjoyable film for all ages, *Despicable Me 2* portrays Gru as an amicable animated character who has given up his past life as a super villain in favor of becoming a stressed-out

single father for his three adopted children. In this movie Gru is recruited by the Anti-Villain League (AVL) to stop an evil plot and save the world. The main story line focuses on Gru identifying and capturing the villain. There is also an interesting subplot, where Gru finds love with fellow AVL agent Lucy (Kristin Wiig).

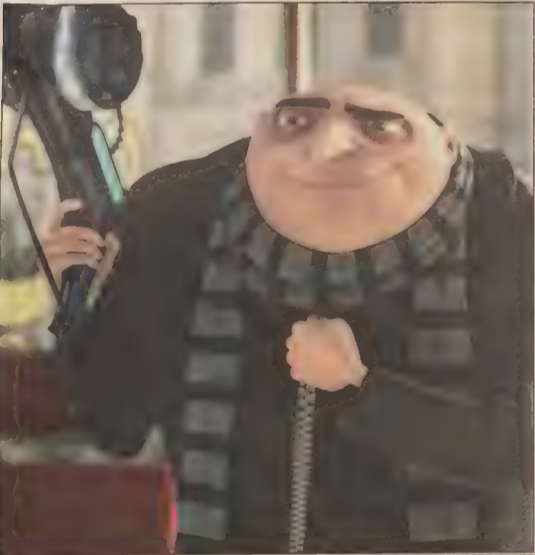
Gru's adopted daughters shine in this film, as Margo fields a romantic interest of her own, to her adoptive father's dismay, and Agnes enjoys a decent amount of the spotlight. From the very beginning the three children are a source of laughter for the audience alongside the incredibly funny minions. There are, however, a few plot strands left hanging during the film. For example Margo's romantic interest ends abruptly in the midst of a fast-paced scene.

Although this movie is appealing for all ages, it

also includes elements of the plot that raises some serious bioethical concerns.

The tool behind the evil plot is a mutating chemical agent that turns anything into an indestructible killing machine. In one of the first scenes featuring this chemical, we see a scientist in a secret laboratory injecting the chemical into

SEE BIOETHICS, PAGE B8



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*Despicable Me* wordlessly engages in ethical commentary aimed at kids.

## 'Comet of the Century' will graze sun

By **SOPHIA GAUTHIER**  
Science & Technology Editor

A newcomer named ISON is paying a visit to our inner solar system just in time for this year's Thanksgiving meal. If your eye has any inclination towards the night sky you might want to set your alarm at an ungodly hour for a chance to glimpse what is to be a spectacular show from outer space.

The highly anticipated "Comet of the Century" ISON hails from the Oort Cloud, a dusty collection of celestial ice that resides on the edge of our solar system trillions of miles away. ISON, a gaseous conglomerate of ice and rock, has been traveling for thousands of years for its stopover by our Sun - so many years a sleeper may be willing to drag the sand bags from their eyes to say hello.

ISON is now visible by the naked eye at around four in the morning or about two hours before

sunrise. The comet can be seen hurtling by the constellation Virgo in the southeast sector of the starry abyss, flanked by planets Saturn and Mercury. Although ISON has recent-

ly increased in brightness by a magnitude of 10, light pollution from cities and the moon may call for an auxiliary pair of binoculars to assist with visibility.

SEE COMET, PAGE B8



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Visible to the naked eye, astronomers fervently capture photos of ISON.



COURTESY OF TAKA SASAKI PH.D AND JAMES WATERS

Researchers marked ants in the study with dots of paint to distinguish their movements between nest sites.

## Ants prioritize in decision-making

By **SUNNY CAI**  
Staff Writer

Making decisions is hard. Making collective decisions is harder. Think about how hard it would be to decide where to buy a house. Then think about how hard it would be to decide where to buy a house with several hundred roommates. As unmanageable as that sounds a new study shows that ant colonies are able to do just that.

Taka Sasaki and Stephen C. Pratt of the School of Life Sciences and Center for Social Dynamics at Arizona State University found that ant colonies are able to prioritize certain characteristics when choosing nest sites in order to make a collective decision of where to live. Their findings were published in *Biology Letters* last month.

Sasaki and Pratt have

extensively studied collective behavior in many different insects, including ants. Sasaki wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*, "Some people think that ants are not that smart and simply respond to stimuli in their current environment," He continued, "However, many studies actually have shown that they are cognitively very sophisticated even though they have very tiny brains! We were wondering if ants were able to change weights of attributes according to their experience, like humans do."

"We found that ant colonies alter their weighting of different nest site features based on the array of options they have previously experienced," Sasaki said. Sasaki and Pratt's experiment differs from any previously conducted animal behavior research. "Past

research has mainly focused on a single attribute at a time, testing whether animals change their selectivity according to the average quality of options available in their environment," Sasaki wrote. "We instead created an environment where two attributes differed in how well they distinguished options, and showed that colonies came to rely more on the more informative feature."

Sasaki and Pratt tested the ability of ants to make prioritized decisions by performing a series of tests on ant colonies in choosing nesting sites. First all of the ants needed to be identified. "To identify ants, we paint each ant with unique colors," Sasaki explained. "As the ant is very small (2-3 mm), it is initially very difficult to do. But as you do it more,

SEE PRIORITIES, PAGE B8

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ants, like humans, rely on past memories

PRIORITIES, FROM B7  
it surprisingly becomes easier.”

*Temnothorax rugatulus*, the ant species used in the experiment, has a strong preference for nests with smaller entrances and darker interiors. Initially the ant colonies were offered a choice between Nests E and L. Nest E had a smaller entrance than Nest L, but Nest L had a darker interior than Nest E, posing a trade-off between the two considered attributes: entrance size and interior lighting.

Next the ant colonies were divided into two groups and subject to a series of four trials. The “entrance treatment” group had to move from a standard home nest and choose between moving to either a new standard nest or to one that had a larger entrance but was otherwise identical to the standard nest. On the other hand the “light treatment” group had to move from a standard home nest and choose between moving to either a new standard nest or to one that had a brighter interior but was otherwise identical to the standard nest. In each trial the ant colonies in both treatment groups

usually moved to the new standard home nest.

In order to determine whether the experiences the ants underwent during the treatments had changed their weighting of the two attributes, all of the ant col-

tended to prefer Nest L over E, prioritizing darker interiors over smaller entrances. The ant colonies shifted their preferences based on their previous experiences.

Sasaki and Pratt’s findings have forged new paths

collectively do something that we do. Like neurons in a brain, ants interact with each other to achieve sophisticated cognition.”

For Sasaki and Pratt, however, several questions remain unanswered. “We still do not know the mechanisms of this collective cognition,” Sasaki wrote. “For example, how do [ants] share information? Is it always beneficial to share information?”

Sasaki and Pratt have high hopes for future research in the decision making behavior of animals. “We also hope that other researchers who work on different organisms can use this (neuron in a brain) paradigm to test how experience affects decision-making processes,” Sasaki wrote. “For example, some researchers (also good friends of mine) study decision making of slime molds. I wonder if slime molds can change their weights of attributes according to experience even though they do not have a brain!”

Perhaps through this study, we can learn from ants how to better cooperate with one another when making decisions as a group.



COURTESY OF TAKA SASAKI PH.D AND JAMES WATERS  
This particular species of ant prefers small entrances into dark quarters.

onies were again presented with the initial choice between Nest E and Nest L. Colonies that received the entrance treatment tended to prefer Nest E over L, prioritizing smaller entrances over darker interiors.

Conversely colonies that received the light treatment

in the understanding of animal behavior. “As far as we know, this is the first study to show that animal groups, like individuals, change decision-making strategies according to experience,” Sasaki wrote. “[It] is interesting that animals with tiny brains can



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The discovered fossilized pair was frozen in time 165 million year ago.

Insect fossil sheds light on mating behaviors

INSECTS, FROM B7  
observe the exact mechanics of frog hopper mating up close with a dissecting microscope.

Despite the novelty of the fossil and species researchers noticed that they were mating in a strikingly similar way to their living descendants. The insects in the fossil were mating belly-to-belly with the male’s sex organ, the aedeagus, inserted into the female’s sex organ, the bursa copulatrix. Modern-day frog hoppers also traditionally mate belly-to-belly while holding on to a twig (or occasionally side-to-side if copulating on a leaf). In the fossil the stomach of the male is twisted to make inserting his sex organ easier, a behavior observed in modern-day insects as well. However the team is not completely sure if the fossilized insects were truly mating belly-to-belly or if they were originally

side-to-side before natural forces reoriented them.

The frog hoppers also look very anatomically similar to ones that are alive today despite the fact that about 165 million years have passed. For example both types of insects have symmetric sex organs. The male aedeagus also curves upward in both the fossilized species as well as the insects that are alive today. This indicates that the male frog hopper used to, and still does, rotate and flex its stomach during intercourse, suggesting that they have been copulating the same way for at least 165 million years.

This discovery begs the question of why the mating habits of these insects have not changed at all in the past millions of years. The researchers have not shared their speculations yet, but the answer might be simple: it just works.

Children’s movie slyly denounces animal testing



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Universal Studios attempts to engage young audiences in ethics debates.

BIOETHICS, FROM B7  
a rabbit. In turn the rabbit mutates into a large purple rabid monster form of its original self and mauls the scientist. From genetic engineering to animal testing, this PG-rated film presents issues that raise some ethical concerns for our younger generations.

After the film children may be left wondering: what types of animal research is acceptable? What are our obligations to animals used in research? What are acceptable goals for genetic engineering? Should genetic engineering be used for enhancement or strictly limited to treating disease? Big questions for little people...

When Gru’s minions all mutate to form an indestructible army for the evil villain of the movie, the solution is an antidote that reverses the effects of the mutating chemical. Does this antidote—that

was seemingly discovered by a henchman with unbelievable ease—inappropriately minimize the serious risks of genetic engineering or research with animals? Granted for any work of fiction, and maybe a children’s movie in particular, facts are often valued only to the extent that they do not disrupt the plot. Certainly the storyline about the chemical provides comic relief which is perhaps the foremost goal of *Despicable Me 2*. However I do think that we have a responsibility to raise awareness about ethical challenges in younger generations.

Any qualms about easy ethical fixes aside, I did enjoy the film and will say that while *Despicable Me 2* does not surpass its predecessor, fans will not be disappointed. The small dose of bioethics will simply be a bonus.

Robotic limbs can provide neuromuscular function

PROSTHETICS, FROM B7  
prosthetic at an even level, walking must be done in a biomechanically inefficient manner; this puts stress on other parts of the body, particularly the hip. These cannot self stabilize, causing amputees to be highly susceptible to accidental falls.

Robotic limbs are being designed as an attempt to shore up the shortcomings of the prosthetics mentioned above. They are intended not to merely aid in the mechanics of walking but also serve as a replacement for the neuromuscular system that was lost. Muscles often occur in antagonistic pairs that allow us to stretch and flex. Instead, in robotic limbs, electric motors are used to imitate this function, and batteries are used to power them.

Similar to how our bodies use special sensory organs embedded in our muscle fibers and tendons called proprioceptors, these robo-limbs are also equipped with sensors to detect and measure angle, angular velocity and torque of our limbs. This allows the limb to calibrate the force that it needs to apply. In addition a three-

axis gyroscope and accelerometer are used as an imitation of our vestibular system, a sensory organ located in our inner ear responsible for measuring spatial orientation and helping us balance. All this information is relayed to and processed by a micro-controller akin to our own peripheral and lower central nervous system.

Since robotic limbs are self powered units, they cannot be swung along like traditional prosthetics. Instead robotic limbs must move through concerted movement with the rest of our bodies via communication with our central nervous system. Several approaches to interpret and signal information to the CNS are being developed simultaneously. The three techniques primarily regarded in the field are (in order of increasing invasiveness):

Physical Sensor Interface: Sensors on the surface of the limb measure movement of the prosthetic and then kick in the limb’s own power supply to complete the movement. While this does not technically communicate with CNS directly, the initial movement of the pros-

thetic by the body is often a reliable indicator of intended movement.

Surface or Implantable Electromyography (EMG) Interface: This system can measure electrical activity from the muscle of the residual limb using electrodes. Electrodes can also be implanted into the peripheral nerves allowing for more sensitive motor commands and the potential to relay information back to the CNS.

Direct Implantation of Electrodes into the CNS: While this method might actually be less precise than the EMG, it would

allow for greater measurement of intentions for your next move.

The development of these interlaying systems represents the greatest challenge in the late stage development of these devices. However, the payoff is potentially tremendous. With limbs capable of self power and stabilization and information processing amputees will be able to walk quicker and safer. Movement will require less strain on their bodies, and amputees will be able to adapt to variety of situations, preventing further injuries and suffering.



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Developments in prosthetics move towards stability and performance.



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Astronomers have been tracking comet ISON since its discovery in 2012.

ISON will light up the night on Thanksgiving

COMET, FROM B7  
ISON will crescendo towards an epic finale in the early hours of Thursday, Nov. 28, when it passes its closest point to our Sun, about 1 million miles away. Astronomers expect the rare “sungrazing” comet to flare in a dramatic spectacle for early rising stargazers and enthusiasts alike.

ISON is estimated to be about one to three miles in diameter and is considered rather small as far as comets go. What it lacks in size it may make up in brightness, especially since ISON dares pay no heed to the cautions of Daedalus. Scientists say there is a sizable chance that it will break up during its daring encounter

with the Sun.

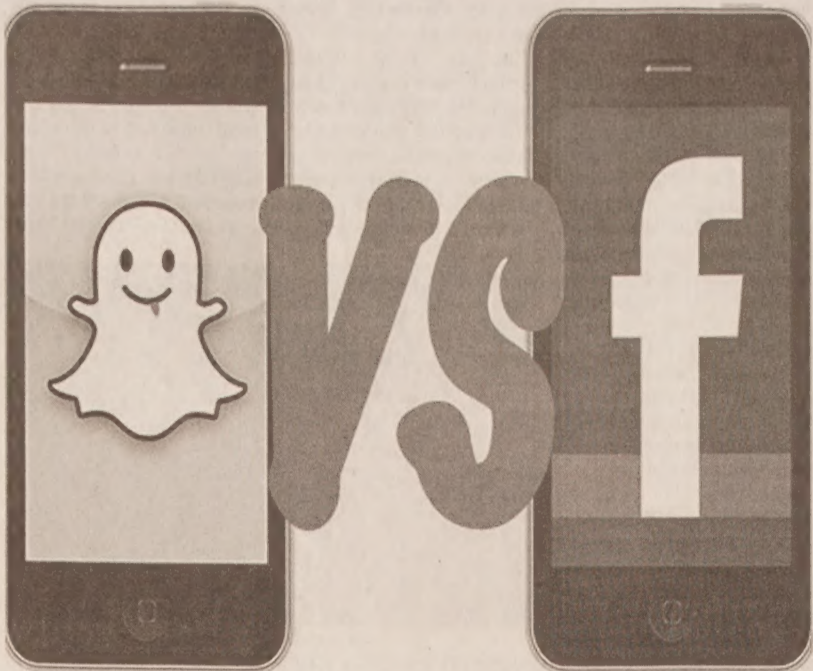
Astronomers are beyond ecstatic for this rare opportunity to study the comet. Many comets such as ISON are tangible remnants from billions of years ago when our solar system originally came into being and can offer insights to its formation. Astronomers will be quite in a time crunch as the comet can only be studied close up for the several weeks that it soars within the bounds of Earth’s orbit around the Sun.

ISON was named after the International Scientific Optical Network, the telescope used to first glimpse its existence by two amateur Russian astronomers.

# Why did Snapchat turn down \$3 billion?

By SEAN YAMAKAWA  
Staff Writer

How much could a company that makes zero operating profit be worth? Over \$3 billion in cash, Facebook would tell you. Earlier this week, the social networking website offered to buy Snapchat, a company recently popularized by its photo sharing app for that sum of money — and Snapchat turned it down. This certainly raises another pertinent question: How is Snapchat worth anything? Despite intending a \$3 billion investment in Snapchat, Facebook would have received essentially nothing. Snapchat is currently run by a small staff operating a handful of servers. Even the technology they use is nothing impressive. Facebook in particular would know this because the company immediately created a similar app after their conquest had failed. What Facebook does want, however, is the attention Snapchat commands.



TOCQUEVILLE.RICHMOND.EDU  
Snapchat does not wish to associate itself with the declining popularity of the Facebook platform.

Ever since Facebook bought Instagram for \$1 billion in April 2012, it has been pulling all of its strings to rees-

tablish its reputation as the cool and popular center of social media. Earlier this month, Facebook admitted

that there has been a noticeable decline in teenage users on Facebook. This age demographic has long been the primary target of advertising agencies, so it is absolutely crucial that Facebook regain its popularity with teens if it wants to succeed. In recent years, as adults and companies have become increasingly involved in Facebook, teenagers are looking for a new outlet of media and digital networking.

So there are good reasons why Facebook would like to acquire Snapchat — but is there a reason why Snapchat would reject \$3 billion? If the cash had been distributed among its small staff, each person would have left work that night as a millionaire.

Possibly the largest reason Snapchat did not join the Internet giant is to maintain its reputation as the budding startup that joins and leads a new era in the mobile industry. Alongside Vine, Snapchat is one of the two most popular viral mobile sensations to grab the attention of teenagers nationwide. Already, the “Best Vines” and “Leaked Snapchat” accounts on Facebook and Twitter garner as many followers as some of the most popular music artists.

What Snapchat realizes — and perhaps Facebook does as well — is that this new culture created by teenagers through apps like Snapchat, Vine and Tumblr is still shaping itself. Snapchat shows it is fully capable of updating its app with new, dynamic features such as its recent “stories” update, which has been an enormous success. How valuable Snapchat’s predominance in this movement down the road will be is anybody’s guess.

# Metamaterials offer rechargeable solutions

By TONY WU  
Staff Writer

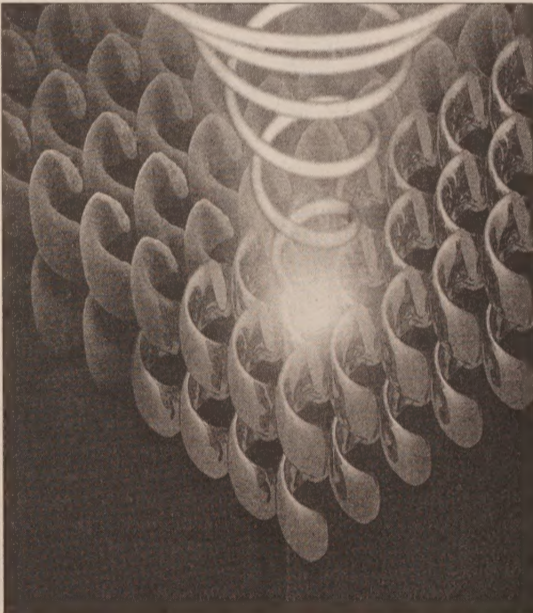
In modern day society, countless wifi, radio and microwave signals are given off from electronic devices such as cell phones. These signals are essential in connecting people to social media and to each other. However, manufacturing signals requires energy that is wasted after they finish transferring their information. In the face of a looming energy crisis, scientists are searching for methods that can convert these signals into usable energy, minimizing the loss of energy when an electronic device is used. A promising method has been discovered recently by a research team led by Steven A. Cummer, an electrical and computer engineering professor at Duke University.

The device created at Duke utilizes principles similar to those of solar panels. The main purpose of the instrument is to convert microwave signals to DC voltage, which can then be used to recharge a small electronic device. The device consists of metamaterials — artificial materials that can exhibit exotic behaviors not found in natural products. The metamaterial under study is the SRR, a split-ring resonator. The SRR can then be tuned to a particular resonance frequency. By producing a resonance, the SRR can couple to a magnetic field, which when in the presence of circuit elements, produces electricity. The metamaterial cells work much like a spring moving back and forth at its resonant frequency. The alternating signal produces a current.

Initial trials with the device show stunning suc-

cess. By tuning the SRR to a frequency that corresponds to a microwave signal, the array of SRRs are able to convert the signals into electricity. The recovery of the energy in the microwave signal is about 37% and when five arrays are connected in parallel, 7.3 Volts of power are detected. Through optimization, the researchers determined that the device is more efficient when multiple SRR arrays are connected than any single unit. When units of SRR are individually used, some energy is lost because of the fringing effects. At the sides of the waveguide, a feature of the device that directs and focuses the microwave signals, there are fringing effects, reducing the amount of signal transmitted to the SRR. By coupling multiple SRR panels together, the fringing effect is minimized, making the device more efficient.

Even though the device produces a workable prototype in converting signals into energy, the idea is not new to the engineering world. Multiple devices are capable of capturing and converting signals into energy but few have the efficiency of the device developed by the researchers at Duke. Devices that do not feature similar designs have achieved conversion rates of around 10%. As a result, the efficiencies are not high enough to be a practical component of electronics. However, with this new design, it may be possible to integrate metamaterials into portable electronics in order to maximize battery life. Metamaterials, with their exotic properties, are increasingly gaining popularity and may offer a solution to many more problems in the near future.



APHKITEDU  
Researchers are becoming increasingly interested in metamaterials.

# Rare microbe found in clean room



122.PHYSICS.UCDAVIS.EDU  
A surprisingly resistant bacteria persisted even in a space clean room.

By MARK STUCZYNSKI  
Staff Writer

A rare microbe that survives on very little to eat has been found in two places on Earth: spacecraft clean rooms in Florida and South America.

Extraterrestrial life, if found, would constitute a major discovery and would fundamentally change humanity’s understanding of the universe. Part of this search involves ruling out the possibility that potential “extraterrestrial” organisms were actually organisms from Earth that were accidentally transported to other worlds, and to prevent this, all spacecraft are subjected to severe cleaning measures. An organism surviving in the void of space after being subjected to the numerous chemical, physical and radiation treatments is highly unlikely; however, a bacterial

strain has been found that exhibits these qualities.

In spacecraft cleanrooms in both Florida and French Guiana, scientists discovered and confirmed the presence of a novel bacterium, *Tersicoccus phoenicis*. While the conditions used to sterilize a cleanroom make it extremely difficult to survive, *T. phoenicis* nonetheless remained alive. While other bacteria have been found in cleanrooms, this is the first time that one like *T. phoenicis* has been found and independently characterized over such a wide geographical range.

Scientists working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. proposed that it constitutes a new genus, a higher order division on the tree of life. For example, humans (*Homo sapiens*) and Neanderthals (*Homo neanderthalis*) are part of the same genus but represent different species. In other words, *T. phoenicis*

is as different from known bacteria as gorillas are from humans.

The distinction of a new genus came when scientists in French Guiana confirmed the same strain in a bacterial genomic database. Such a discovery, while novel, is also the result of systematic bias. For instance, the same organism could be present in low quantities in microbial communities all over the world, but only in highly circumstantial situations (such as those contrived by humanity) would it be able to constitute a dominant portion of a community.

*T. phoenicis* is proposed to be an organism that thrives on little-to-no nutrients; a similar organism, *Paenibacillus phoenicis*, also found in clean rooms, was found deep underground in a molybdenum mine. Current efforts include characterizing and sequencing the organism in hopes of regulating and eliminating the bacteria as part of standard cleaning procedures.

For results of extraterrestrial surveys to be accurate, we need to assure that any organisms we find indeed originate in the cosmos and are not just hitchhikers from earth. *T. phoenicis* also gives us the opportunity to figure out how to clean the most difficult and tenacious of organisms from our spacecraft, and minimize our galactic footprint.

# New guidelines for statin usage will increase prescription drug users

By KELLY CARTY  
Staff Writer

Recently released prescription guidelines increase the number of adults likely to benefit from cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins from 15.5% to 31%.

Currently, doctors prescribe statins, which inhibit HMG-CoA reductase along the hepatic cholesterol synthesis pathway, largely to prevent heart attacks. They base such prescriptions on initial cholesterol levels, lowering or raising dosages based on target LDL levels for each patient. Over the years that this class of drugs has been in production, Crestor, Lipitor and Zocor have become common household names,

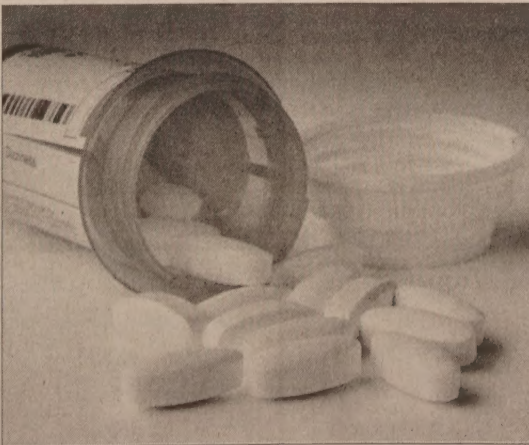
and \$37 billion is spent on cholesterol-lowering meds worldwide.

In an attempt to better distribute these medications, the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association collaborated with the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to generate new criteria for those likely to benefit from taking statins: people with preexisting heart disease, diabetics aged 40 to 75, people aged 40 to 75 with at least a 7.5% change of developing cardiovascular disease in 10 years and people with LDL levels of 190mg/dL or higher.

In lieu of proposing these specific groups, the authors advised doctors to look at a patient’s over-

all risk of cardiovascular disease rather than just

not to prescribe statins. Furthermore, the guide-



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Changes in guidelines will increase usage of cholesterol-lowering statins.

cholesterol levels when determining whether or

lines call for doctors to work closely with patients

to improve diet and exercise. This demonstrates the author’s recognition of the link between obesity and cardiovascular disease, as being overweight increases the risk of heart attack, stroke, diabetes and early death.

According to Dr. Donna Ryan, a professor emeritus at Louisiana State University’s Pennington Biomedical Research Center and a co-author of these new guidelines, diet, physical activity and face-to-face behavioral counseling can lead to a 3 to 5% reduction in weight. Weight loss will lower blood pressure, improve blood cholesterol levels, and reduce the need for medication to manage the heart.

With all this superfi-

cial focus on a holistic, lifestyle-based form of medicine, why did the new criteria double the number of adults likely to benefit from statins? The answer lies in the third high risk group: the report says that patients at risk for cardiovascular disease within the next ten years should change poor lifestyle habits and seek immediate drug therapy. Thus, although lifestyle changes appear as a viable form of preventative care, the dependence remains on statins. Furthermore, in suggesting drug therapy for those only likely to develop cardiovascular disease, the authors of these guidelines have slipped statins into preventative care regimens.

SPORTS



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM  
Hopkins beat second place Dickinson by 68-pts at the Mideast Regions.

# Lady Jays take four of top five at Regional

By ALEX PICANO  
Staff Writer

It has been a successful weekend for women's cross country at Hopkins. In the NCAA Regional meet, the Lady Jays had four of the top five finishers, finishing with 26 points overall and a sixth straight regional championship. They also remained the top-ranked team in the nation for the 12th straight week.

All seven of Hopkins' runners finished inside the top-35 at the meet and were named All-Region Runners. This is the first time in program history that the Blue Jays have placed seven runners on the all-region team. This makes Hopkins one of three teams nationwide with seven honorees.

Sophomore Hannah Oneda once again led the team, finishing second with a time of 21:11. Senior Holly Clarke, junior Frances Loeb, and senior Annie Monagle were a close third, fourth and fifth with times of 21:16, 21:23, and 21:25, respectively.

Hopkins beat second-place Dickinson by a 68-point margin. At last year's NCAA Regional Meet, Hopkins won with a team score of 67 points, which makes this year's result of 26 points that much more impressive.

The Hopkins pack gained a nice lead from the start, with Oneda and Clarke leading early. Oneda's time of 21:11 was her third fastest time ever as a Blue Jay. It was 23 seconds faster than her finish in last year's Mideast Regional. This was Clarke's third fastest career time as well, and it was her quickest ever at the Mideast Regional.

This is the third straight season Clarke has been selected as an All-Region runner. Oneda, Loeb, and Monagle each earned their second career All-Mideast Region selections after they each finished in the top-5.

"I think we proved the depth of our team after winning the Regional Championship this past Saturday," Clarke said. "We had to sit two girls out due to injury and sickness and the two we raced ended up having the races of their careers. It is inspiring to be on a team that is so dedicated and willing to make sacrifices for each other. I believe that we will win the National Championship this Saturday for a second year in a row."

She went on to say, "Our coach, Bobby Van Allen, has been the biggest part in getting us ready for Nationals. The work that we've put in since the beginning of the summer until now has already proven to pay off. As a senior this is the last cross country race I will ever run so I am ready to go through hell to win the race as a team. As for individually, I think we could have our top five be All-Americans this year

(that means placing in the top 35). It's going to be an exciting day!"

Oneda echoed her sentiments, saying, "It's been really exciting this year to be ranked 1st because we have worked hard this season to stay that way, and to finish that way. Our goals this season are to win again, and to make history."

Loeb's time of 21:23 was her best ever as a Blue Jay, nearly 30 seconds faster than her previous career best at the Penn State University invite. Monagle also ran her fastest 6k ever, setting a personal record.

Loeb said, "Our team's incredible depth, work ethic, love, and trust in each other is what makes us so successful. It is why we are the top ranked team in the country. I also don't think any other team has more fun than us come race day. We laugh and stay relaxed even in big, important races. Still, we have high expectations for ourselves and are excited to race on Saturday to defend our title."

Freshman Tess Meehan, senior Abby Flock, and junior Grace Hancock earned their first all-region selections after finishing 12th, 13th, and 22nd, respectively. Hancock also set a personal record, finishing with a career-best time of 22:05.

Hancock said, "We're all really excited for Nationals this weekend and are definitely hoping to bring home another title. I feel like there's a ton of positive energy between all of us right now, and that each of us is doing whatever we can to help the team as a whole reach our goal. It's also just been a ton of fun this entire season and I think that attitude helps us stay focused."

Hopkins received an automatic bid to the Division III NCAA Championship Meet on November 23 in Hanover, Indiana. The Blue Jays are the favorites to repeat as the NCAA National Champions.

By STEVE HYLAND  
Staff Writer

There have been a plethora of words used to describe the 2013 Hopkins women's soccer team. After this past weekend, they can add the word "sweet" to that list. For the sixth straight season, the Blue Jays punched their ticket to the Sweet 16 this past weekend by defeating Brooklyn College 6-0 on Saturday and York College 1-0 on Sunday. The Blue Jays played host to the NCAA regional for a sixth consecutive season.

On Saturday afternoon, the Jays opened postseason play against the 15-4 Bulldogs of Brooklyn College. Hopkins used a blazing hot start in the first 15 minutes to quickly outpace York. Merely six minutes into the game, senior midfielder Christina Convey collected a bouncing pass from junior Hannah Kronick and booted it off the left post and into the net to give the Blue Jays the early 1-0 lead. Kronick's assist was her fifth in an NCAA tournament game, giving her the outright record in Hopkins history. Less than a minute later, the Jays were on the attack again. After senior forward Kelly Baker was tripped in the box by a Brooklyn defender, senior midfielder Pamela Vranis ripped a bullet into the

upper right corner on the ensuing penalty kick to extend the lead.

In the 13th minute, Kronick recorded her first goal of the 2013 tournament off a rebound from Vranis. Vranis blasted a shot off of Brooklyn goalie Kimberly Chacko, which Kronick gathered off her chest and

did not let up another shot for the rest of the game, extending their shut out streak to seven games.

After the early goals, Brooklyn bent but did not break until late in the game against the mighty Hopkins offense. The Lady Jays recorded a remarkable 37 total shots when the final



ELIZABETH CHEN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
The women's soccer team advanced to the Sweet 16 with 20T win.

booted into the back of the net, giving the Blue Jays a commanding 3-0 lead. Baker increased the Hopkins lead to 4-0 in the 16th minute, directing the ball to the left corner of the goal off a one-touch cross from senior defender Kylie Fuller.

Not to be overlooked in this offensive explosion was the Blue Jay defensive effort. After allowing a shot early in the first half, the Hopkins defense absolutely owned the Brooklyn offense. They

horn sounded, and their fifth goal came in the 86th minute when junior midfielder Sydney

Teng gathered the ball on the left side of the box and angled in a shot to the right corner of the net. With the goal, Teng set the Hopkins record for goals scored in the NCAA tournament with six. In the 87th minute, senior Jennie Hall finished off the offensive wallowing by converting a penalty kick.

When the dust settled,

# Hammer scores career-high 36

By DAVID RAUBER  
Staff Writer

Hopkins basketball opened up the 2013-2014 season with an impressive win over Moravian, led by a 36-point effort from junior guard Jimmy Hammer.

With the contest tied late in the first half, Hammer rattled off 11 unanswered points over a two minute span, giving the Blue Jays a 40-29 lead they would never relinquish.

After Moravian went on a 7-2 run to open the first half, Hammer answered with back-to-back three-pointers, extending the lead back to 12 points. The Blue Jays continued to use the deep ball to answer runs by the Greyhounds. Along with Hammer, sophomore Gene Williams and freshman Ryan Curran also made contributions from beyond the arc.

Hammer's 36 points marked a career high, as he went 13-16, including 7-11 from the field. His 36 was also the highest number of points scored in a game for a Blue Jay since Jaden Phillips scored 37 points in 1987.

Junior George Bugarinovic finished with 12 points to go along with five

assists and three steals. Senior Connor McIntyre had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds to go along with four blocks.

In the Blue Jays' second game of the weekend they came up short in a high scoring game, falling to Wesley 90-76.

With the game tied around the halfway point in the first half, Williams put the Blue Jays on top with a bucket from downtown, but the Blue Jays were unable to hold the lead.

Wesley answered with a 17-4 run led by David Langan and Quincy Pettiford. A three-pointer from Hammer helped shorten the deficit, but Wesley held a 12-point lead heading into the locker room at the break.

Hopkins came out of the half strong with a quick 8-0 run, led by six points from Williams. The scoring then went back and forth between the two squads, with Wesley ultimately going on another big run, pushing their lead to 17. Bugarinovic led the Jays, making 8-11 shots from the floor, while grabbing three rebounds and dishing out four assists. Hammer added 14 points and sophomore Austin Vasiliadis finished with a career

high seven assists.

Although the season is young, the team also has clear goals moving forward.

"Our goal as a team is to win the Centennial Conference championship and make a run in the NCAA tournament," Williams said. "I think the seniors will make big contributions this year. We have three seniors that are also captains in Connor Mcyntire, Dan Corbet and Alexander Nikolic. It's their team and they've done a great job so far."

Williams also noted that although the team suffered a tough loss in the second game of the tournament, it was an overall positive start for the Jays. "Our up-tempo defense is new this year and we executed it well against Moravian. We learned that we still have a long way to go to get to where we want to be, but we're making strides every game."

The Blue Jays will continue play on Wednesday as they travel to Reading, Pa. to take part in the Alvernia tournament. This tournament will be another big test for the Blue Jays as they continue to prepare for a Centennial Conference Championship run.

the Blue Jays defeated the Bull Dogs 6-0. The six goal advantage was Hopkins largest ever margin of victory for an NCAA tournament game. The six total goals matched the program's record for goals in an NCAA tournament game as well. They last reached this mark in 2011 when they defeated Eastern Connecticut 6-1. With the victory, the Jays moved on to face the York College Spartans in the round of 32, played the next day at Homewood Field.

On Sunday, York College put forth a tremendous effort to try and knock off the heavily favored Blue Jays. The match was a test of wills for both of these teams, and each team was aggressive throughout the game. The Spartans had early chances from freshman forward Jordan Neiheiser and junior midfielder Beth Bunn, but senior goalie Kelly Leddy was up for the challenge (en route to seven total saves in the game).

York held strong on defense throughout the match. The Blue Jays were stymied by the Spartan defensive front early, but eventually recognized York's weaknesses and began to produce goal-scoring opportunities. In the 15th minute, Convey ripped a shot off the post. Only a few minutes later, Kronick was stopped on her first shot of the game by York's star goalie Melanie Glessner (who had eight saves in the game).

In the 44th minute, the offensive tandem of Teng and freshman midfielder Alyssa Morgan produced a great chance that nearly gave the Blue Jays the momentum they needed going into the half. Morgan played a beautiful cross to Teng's head that was deflected away from the goal. Going into the half, Hopkins held a 6-4 edge in shots while the score remained locked at 0-0.

As the second half began, the Jays peppered York with shots, hoping to score the critical first goal of the match. Glessner stood strong, and stopped three early shots that looked sure to break the deadlock. Hopkins had their best chance to score in the 84th minute, when Kronick struck a shot from the left side of the 18 that hit the top of the post. Though the Blue Jays outshot the Spartans 10-8 in the second half, they went into overtime tied 0-0.

With a Sweet 16 birth on the line, both teams struggled to find any openings in the first overtime period. As the two teams headed into the second overtime, it looked as if this game would be decided with the always heart-pounding shoot out.

In the 106th minute, Kronick blasted the Blue Jays into the Sweet 16. Fuller took a ball down the left side, and played the ball into the middle of the box to Baker, who collected the ball and made a nifty pass to the Hopkins all-time leading goal scorer.

"It was funny," Kronick said after the game. "Right before the second overtime, [Assistant Coach Tim Witman] said to me, 'you're going to score a goal; you're going to do it. The ball is going to come to you at your feet, and you're going to turn and finish.' It was an amazing feeling when his prediction came true."

After receiving the ball from Baker, Kronick did just that and secured the Jays sixth straight appearance in the NCAA Sectionals.

On Saturday, the sixth-ranked Hopkins team travels to Middlebury, VT to face 17th-ranked Williams College in the Sweet 16. The Blue Jays are two wins away from the program's first ever appearance in the Final Four, which will be played in San Antonio, Texas on December 6th.

BLUE JAY SPORTS SCOREBOARD			
Football	Volleyball	M. Basketball	W. Basketball
Nov. 16, 2013	Nov. 15, 2013	Nov. 15-16, 2013	Nov. 16-17, 2013
@ McDaniel	NCAA Regionals	Blue Jay Invite	Blue Jay Invite
W, 52-21	@ Eastern	vs. Moravian, W, 76-60	vs. Salisbury, L, 68-58
	L, 3-0	vs. Wesley, L, 90-76	vs. Wash. & Jeff, W, 77-72
		Nov. 20, 2013	Nov. 20, 2013
		@ Alvernia	vs. Dickinson
W. Cross Country	M. Cross Country	Women's Soccer	Women's Soccer
Nov. 16, 2013	Nov. 16, 2013	Nov. 16, 2013	Nov. 17, 2013
@ NCAA Regionals	@ NCAA Regionals	NCAA Regional	NCAA Regional
1st/52 (26 pts)	1st/54 (62 pts)	vs. Brooklyn	vs. York
		W, 6-0	W, 1-0 (2OT)

SPORTS

Jays cap off perfect season vs. McDaniel

By GAURAV VERMA  
For The News-Letter

On Nov. 16, the eighth-ranked Jays travelled to Westminster, Md. to face off against the McDaniel Green Terror in the season finale.

Although the team had both a NCAA playoff berth and a Centennial Conference title in hand, the Jays were still playing for their second undefeated season in the past three years. Even with a post-season already guaranteed the Jays routed McDaniel by a score of 52-21, capping off their perfect record.

Hopkins jumped to a 28-0 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back.

The Jays got the scoring started on a 10 play, 65-yard drive led by senior quarterback Robbie Matey, who was 7-8 with 58 yards passing on the drive. Matey capped it off with a one yard run for a touchdown to give Hopkins the 7-0 lead.

The Jays needed less than four minutes to expand the lead to 21-0 after Matey completed a 5-yard touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Dan Wodicka, capping off a quick five-play drive set up by a 26-yard punt return by freshman wide receiver Bradley Munday, which gave Hopkins possession at the McDaniel 35.

Freshman defensive back Jack Toner then ended the Green Terror's next drive with an interception which he returned 36 yards for a touchdown.

With Hopkins taking the commanding lead, head coach Jim Margraff decided to pull the majority of his starters and give all his healthy players some time on the field, rewarding the players on the team who have been vital contributors throughout the season with some gametime action.

Yet even with the starters on the sidelines Hopkins continued to dominate as junior quarterback Braden Anderson and senior wide receiver Jared Beekman connected on a 12-yard touchdown pass to give the Jays a 28-0 lead to close out the first quarter.

Junior running back Matt Berry opened up the scoring in the second quarter with a 2-yard touchdown run to put Hopkins up 35-0.

McDaniel was able to get on the board before the end of the half on a 48-yard touchdown pass.

In the late third quarter Hopkins expanded their lead to 45-7 on a one-yard touchdown run from Anderson and a 25-yard field goal from senior kicker Richie Carbone.

Although the Green Terror was able to add two more scores, it was the Jays that ended the day's scoring on a one-yard rush by junior full-back Cesar Concepcion, capping off a dominating 52-21 victory for the Jays on McDaniel's home field.

Overall the game was truly a complete team effort as six different players scored touchdowns while Carbone added a field goal of his own.

Despite winning the conference title and having a tournament berth locked up, Anderson commented, "It's always special to be able to finish the regular season undefeated, especially with a win against in-state rival McDaniel."

He added, "The fact that this game still factored into tournament seeding and the number of home games we could possibly have for the playoffs also kept us focused during the week."

He made it clear that the team did not take it easy going into the game and that the team prepared just as thoroughly as they did when more was on the line.

Hopkins will be hosting the #15 Wesley Wolverines at Homewood Field on Nov. 23 at noon in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Anderson made it clear what the game plan was for the week. He said, "Step one of preparation for the NCAA playoffs is to get back at it in practice on Tuesday. We'll continue to watch film of Wesley and the coaches will work out a game plan for Saturday."

The event is being met with great anticipation by the student body with several events planned leading up to the game.

On Friday night the Student Government Association will be sponsoring a pep rally, featuring smores, a pump up speech, the singing of the school fight song and potential giveaways.

Saturday morning will feature a tailgate. Hopefully these events will be well attended, motivating the student body to pack Homewood Field on Saturday to cheer on the Jays to victory.

Gametime against Wesley is 12PM this Saturday.

By ZACH ZILBER  
Staff Writer

Two wins, seven total goals on 56 shots and one game-winner in double-overtime highlighted the first weekend of NCAA action for the women's soccer team.

The Lady Jays faced off against Brooklyn College in the first round of the tournament, scoring four goals before the 16th minute. They would tack on two more goals in the second half, decisively winning by a score of 6-0. Brooklyn was held to a grand total of one shot the entire game.

The following day the drama really began.

Facing York College in the next round, the Lady Jays found themselves tied 0-0 through 105 minutes before this week's Athlete of the Week sent everyone home.

In the final five minutes of double-overtime, forward Hannah Kronick blew a game-winning shot past York's goalkeeper, sending Hopkins into the Sweet 16.

Not only did Kronick's goal advance the Jays into the next round, but it also made her the program's all-time leading scorer in NCAA A tournament games with 15 points off five career goals and assists.

The junior forward would finish the weekend with two more goals and one assist. She was kind enough to answer a few questions for us.

The News-Letter: What was going through your

head right before that first round game against Brooklyn?

Hannah Kronick: We were all definitely a little nervous before the Brooklyn game just because the

HK: Our team played great against Brooklyn. What particularly stands out to me is how quickly we scored in the first half. We didn't let them have any hope of winning, and that's what we always

the keeper. It was an unreal experience. I couldn't have been more proud to represent my team and secure our spot in the Sweet 16 at that moment.

N-L: With that goal, you are now the all-time leading scorer in NCAA tournament games. What do you think about that?

HK: It's very cool for me. It was an important personal goal for me this season to perform well in games that count and mean the most, so I think that shows that for me.

N-L: What can we expect this weekend against Williams College in the Sweet 16?

HK: It will definitely be a good game because Williams is a good team, but we hope that our hard work will pay off, and we will get the result we want.

N-L: How far do you think you guys can advance?

HK: I think if we play the way we can, we have an opportunity to go as far as possible.

N-L: Thank you so much for your time. Good luck next week!

HK: Thanks! And no problem!

The Lady Jays will look to advance to the Elite Eight this weekend when they fly to Vermont to take on 17th seed Williams College. The 6th seeded Jays have been here before; this is their sixth straight Sweet 16. They have advanced to the Elite Eight in three out of the past five years. The Lady Jays will carry a streak of eight straight shutouts into this match-up as they hope to power through the tournament.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK  
HANNAH KRONICK - WOMEN'S SOCCER



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM  
Kronick has 64 goals in her career, tops all-time in Hopkins history.

NCAA tournament is win or go home. We were so excited, though, because the playoffs are what we have been working towards all year.

N-L: Tell me about the goal you scored in that game.

HK: The goal I scored against Brooklyn was a result of hard work by my teammates. A corner was sent in and [midfielder] Pam Vranis did a great job at getting up for the header, which was saved off the line by a Brooklyn defender and deflected right towards my chest. All I had to do was settle it off my check and hit a one-time volley past the keeper.

N-L: Can you tell me about a memorable moment from that game that particularly stands out to you?

set out to do. It was important for us to put the game out of reach early in the second half, and our goal scoring definitely did that.

N-L: In the next game against York you had a few shots on goal. Aside from the one that went in, were any of the others particularly memorable or heart-breaking?

HK: When I hit the crossbar in the last 10 minutes I really thought it was in, so that was pretty unfortunate!

N-L: Well, it turned out not to matter. Can you describe the game-winning goal for me?

HK: It was unreal. I didn't expect it at all. It was a build up from my team. [Defender Kylie Fuller] got the ball on the wing, beat her defender and dribbled in. She then passed it to [forward Kelly Baker] who made an amazing slot to me. I got it at my feet, took a few touches to beat the defender and then hit it with my left foot past

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Hannah Kronick  
Year: Junior  
Position: Forward  
Major: Int'l Studies  
Hometown: Westfield, NJ

Women's Basketball looks for consistent start

By SCOTT SHEEHAN  
Staff Writer

Last season the Hopkins women's basketball team finished a 16-11 season after being eliminated in the conference semifinals. Despite losing many of their top players from last year the team is very confident in themselves this year. They were picked fourth in the preseason conference poll, but the team hopes to make it all the way to the NCAA tournament.

"This season we're obviously striving to win the conference and make the NCAA tournament like we hope to every year. This year, our goal is to have a stronger start than last year and play consistently throughout the season," said Junior guard Stacy Fairey.

The team kicked off the season against Salisbury in the Mike Durgala Memorial Tournament. The Seagulls dominated the first few minutes of the game getting off to a quick 9-3 lead. This quickly changed as junior center Ciara McCullagh and sophomore guard Katie Clark led the Jays on a 17-3 run, scoring a combined 15 points in just over five minutes. Hopkins did not let up their lead for the rest of the half and went into the break with a 35-27 lead.

In the second half, however, Hopkins began to have trouble. Less than three minutes in Salisbury had already taken back the lead thanks to an 11-0 run. It did not help that Hopkins had five turnovers during that run.

Hopkins was able to regain the lead 41-40 with 14:03 to play after McCullagh got an offensive rebound and finished the play with a layup. This would be the last time Hopkins had the lead though as the Seagulls went on a 14-3 run and did not turn back, handing Hopkins a 68-58 loss.

It proved to be the turnover that made the difference. Hopkins allowed 28 points off turnovers including 19 in the second half. The Jays' defense also allowed the Seagulls to go on many dominating runs.

Fairey said, "The scoring streaks could mostly be attributed to the turnovers. We turned the ball over a lot and they were able to score off of them, which made a big difference in the game."

When asked about how the team plans to prevent these stretches of weak play from reoccurring in future games, senior captain Fatu Conteh said, "My team just has to do better at responding when the opposing team starts to go on a run. This means working harder on defense, for every lose ball, and for every rebound."

McCullagh led the

team with a career high 17 points, going 7-9 from the field with eight rebounds. Clark also had a career high with 11 points.

After the tough loss Hopkins went on to play Washington and Jefferson in the consolation game on Sunday.

The lead went back and forth in the first half, changing hands six times.

At the half Washington and Jefferson had an eight point lead, which was their largest of the night.

The Jays could have let their loss from the previous night get to their heads, but instead they brought out a new level of intensity. "At half we really just had energy and knew we could win the game," said McCullagh, "we were fired up and brought that energy into the second half. We knew we had to come out strong and make a run right away to catch up and throw them off."

Coming out of the break Hopkins did just that. Down 52-43 with 16 minutes remaining, Fairey got things started for Hopkins with a jumper that led to a 15-2 Hopkins run that put the Jays in the lead.

The Presidents stayed right on the Jays' tail and

were able to tie the game back up with less than seven minutes remaining, but the Jays never let them regain the lead and finished the second half outscoring the Presidents 43-30 to help the team to a 77-72 win.

The bench was the largest factor for the Jays as they accounted for more than half of the team's points. Fairey came off the bench and led the team with a career high 18 points to help the Blue Jays bench score 46 points to the Presidents' bench's eight.

The performance from the bench showed how deep a team the Jays are and how they do not need to rely on a single player to win the game.

"The greatest aspect about this team is that we don't have one "go-to" person per say," said Conteh. "Everyone can contribute in their own way. We don't have to rely on one or two individuals to get points on the scoreboard or rebounds. This definitely shows how much depth we have."

Junior Maggie Fruehan also scored double-digit points with 11 in only eight minutes of play.

The Jays were also able to cut down the number of turnovers allowed. The Presidents scored only 13 points off turnovers while Hopkins scored 20 off theirs.

After splitting the games this weekend, the Jays showed they still have some work to do, but if they continue to focus and play with determination they are certainly capable of a strong season.



BRETT BRODSKY/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
For the second time in three years, Hopkins football is undefeated.

# SPORTS

## Did You Know?

The last time the Hopkins football team faced Wesley, the Wolverines beat Hopkins in the 2009 NCAA Quarterfinals, 12-0.

## CALENDAR

### SATURDAY

Football vs. Wesley, 12:00 PM  
W. Basketball vs. Ursinus, 1:00 PM  
M. Basketball vs. Ursinus, 3:00 PM

### SUNDAY

Fencing vs. JHU Invite, All Day

## Playoff march continues for Women's Soccer



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

After running through Brooklyn in the first round of the NCAA Tournament with a 6-0 win, the women's soccer team found York to be a much tougher test in the second round. It took a double OT goal from junior forward Hannah Kronick to give Hopkins the 1-0 victory and send the team into the Sweet 16. Please see Page B10 for full coverage.

### Football: Hosts Wesley in NAAs

After taking down McDaniel 52-21, the Hopkins football team finished their season undefeated at 10-0, capping off the team's second undefeated season in three years. **Page B11**

### Athlete of the Week: Hannah Kronick

A 2OT goal by Hannah Kronick sent the women's soccer team into the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament, making Kronick the *News-Letter* Athlete of the Week. **Page B11**

### Women's Basketball: 1-1 over Weekend

The women's basketball team opened up their 2013-2014 season with a split over the weekend. The team lost to Salisbury but rebounded with a win against Washington & Jefferson. **Page B11**

## Men's X-Country: NCAA Regional Champs

By RACHEL COOK  
Staff Writer

On Saturday November 16th, the Hopkins men's cross country team made the Blue Jays athletics history books by becoming the program's first-ever team to clinch the NCAA Mid-east Regional Championship.

Continuing with their dominant season, the men's cross country team took the championship with a score of 62 points. Coming in second was Blue Jay rival Dickinson who scored 88 points followed by third-place Haverford with 106 points.

Leading the Blue Jays with a seventh-place finish was senior Max Robinson. Running a career-fast time in the race, Robinson finished in 24:53.

Robinson was not the only runner to race at a career-fast time, in fact, six of the Blue Jays beat their career-best times. Sophomore Schaffer Ochstein finished eighth, right behind Robinson with a time of 24:53. Also finishing within the top ten was senior Julian Saliani coming in at tenth place with a time of 25:02.

Helping the Blue Jays clinch the title, freshman Stefan Arnold and junior Austin Steckclair stayed in the top twenty, coming in 18th and 19th with times of 25:21 and 25:22, respectively. The cross country

team's number six runner kept the Blue Jays in the top fifties as senior Ryan Alvarez ran a career-best time finishing 33rd with a time of 25:41. Maintaining the top fifty status, the Blue Jays' junior Andrew Ceruzzi ran his second best career time coming

not won a conference championship in over fifty years, back when the Blue Jays won the Mason Dixon Conference crown. The cross country team however, would end this drought this fall season, successfully defeating Dickinson (39 points)

Championship.

"The biggest thing today was how they all set off one another," Coach Van Allen added, "[winning the conference title] has been a team goal for a while, it wasn't going to happen unless they were thinking about someone else on the team."

Shortly after their historic win, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Poll would move the Blue Jays up in the poll from number 32 to number 8 overall in the nation. This monumental jump to number



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Led by a veteran group of runners, the men's cross country team has had an historical 2013 fall season.

in at 50th with a time of 26:02.

With all seven of the Blue Jay runners keeping a pace between 5:02 and 5:15, Hopkins finished with a total time of 2:53:31. Beating Dickinson by 40 seconds, Hopkins scored better with 62 points compared to Dickinson's 88, successfully giving the Blue Jays the victory. In a celebratory manner after the game, head coach Bob Van Allen had great pride for his team and gave credit to all of his runners, saying "Depth was a factor again today."

Coach Van Allen has experienced quite the historic season with his cross country team this year, beginning with the Centennial Conference Championship on November 2nd. The men's cross country team had

and Haverford (61 points) with a score of 34 points.

Once again leading the pack for the Blue Jays in the Centennial Championships was Robinson, finishing third with a time of 26:01. Freshman Stefan Arnold earned the Centennial Conference Rookie of the Year honors with his tenth place finish and a time of 26:23.

When asked about the win, head Coach Van Allen said, "They won this because they were confident. We've had pretty high goals the entire season and now its all coming together, they're realizing their hard work is paying off and it showed today."

For the first time in over fifty years, the men's cross country team brought back a conference championship, and this time it was the Centennial Conference

eight is the highest ranking the Blue Jay men's cross country program has ever held.

"It's obviously very humbling to be recognized nationally, and it is just a testament to how hard our guys have worked this year," said coach Van Allen.

Ranking #8 nationally and #1 in the Mid-east Region has provided evidence for all the hard work the men's cross country team has put into their season so far. With a hard battle still in front of them, the Blue Jays cannot spend a lot of time celebrating.

The NCAA Championships are on November 23 in Hanover, IN, and the men's cross country team still has seven spots to jump before they can claim the number one spot in the nation.

## W. Volleyball falls in first round of NAAs

By ZACHERY OLAH  
Staff Writer

As Saturday, November 15 rolled around the corner, the Hopkins volleyball team found themselves in Huntingdon, Pa to face Eastern University in their third straight NCAA appearance. The team knew they had a tough task ahead of them, but because of their ability to overcome all obstacles coupled with an impressive set of performances in the Centennial Conference playoffs, the Lady Jays felt confident.

However, the first game of the match was all Eastern. They cruised to an easy 25-13 victory over the Blue Jays. The second game was another story, though. The ladies jumped out to an early lead and held it for the majority of the game. After an kill by sophomore Ali Cox, Hopkins was just three points away from winning the second game. And yet, the Lady Jays could not find a way to close out the game, as Eastern hung around and capitalized on a plethora of mistakes to take a 2-0 lead. The second game ended on an 8-0 run in favor of Eastern as they came back to shock the Lady Jays.

The third game also did not end in favor of the Blue Jays. They fell behind early and could not overcome the early deficit as Eastern cruised to another easy game, sweeping the Jays 3-0 to capture the win. This was the first time in Hopkins volleyball program history that a team had surrendered three straight losses in NCAA play and allowed the opponent to sweep them.

Despite the loss, Hopkins was led by junior Meagan Donohoe and sophomore Caitlyn Callihan. Donohoe hit for ten kills while Callihan hit for eight kills of her own with an average of .350. Sophomore Erin Hillman carried the Eastern team to their victory with 13 kills and a hitting percentage of .632.

Sophomore Carolyn Zin, who was recently named an Academic All-American for Hopkins, commented on the plan heading into the match. "We entered the match knowing that if we brought our game, stayed aggressive, and took note of the scout, we would be happy with the result. Our mentality especially in the conference playoffs and NCAA postseason tournament was to take

each match one at a time. Unfortunately, we did not bring our best game to the match against Eastern. We had flashes of our great Hopkins volleyball style of play, but we didn't stay consistent with this throughout the match. We respect Eastern, and we wish them luck for the remainder of the tournament. Every point, every set, every match is part of a larger learning process. While we were disappointed that we didn't play to the standard that we wanted in our last match, we are very happy with the season."

Even though the season did not end in the fashion that was desired by the team, there is a common feeling about a positive future in the program. Losing only one senior, the girls are ready to work their hardest to come back stronger than ever next season.

"We have a very positive outlook on the season," said Zin. "We began our season playing some of the best teams in the nation, showing that we can compete. As a team, especially with a coaching change, there was some adjusting that had to be done. Together, we have grown not only in the physical aspect of the game, but also in our mental toughness. We proved victorious in defending our Conference title! Our future is bright, and we can only improve with more time in the gym and during the offseason."

Zin commented on how expectations are high for next season and that a lot of work needs to be done in the offseason. "Looking into next season, we are definitely a team to watch! The best way to improve in volleyball is to keep playing and to watch volleyball. During the offseason, we will focus on becoming stronger in the weight room as well as continuing to get touches on the ball."

The team seems to be taking the loss seriously, but at the same time seeing the positives of the future. After winning the Centennial Conference Championship, hard work in the off-season combined with a strong team chemistry sounds like the perfect formula for another great season of Hopkins volleyball next fall. The girls have their eyes and hearts set on taking their game to an even higher level heading into next season.



BRETT BRODSKY/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

10 kills from junior Meagan Donohoe was not enough for Hopkins.